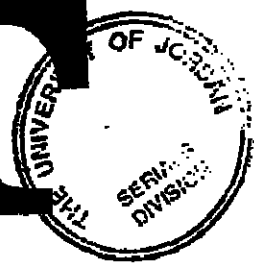


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Phoebe wins an Emmy



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Betar-Rangers showdown tonight

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Some optimism expressed as Ross shuttle continues

By DANNA HARMAN

While US Mideast envoy Dennis Ross continued to shuttle between Palestinian and Israeli leaders yesterday, a few key players said they were optimistic a breakthrough was possible.

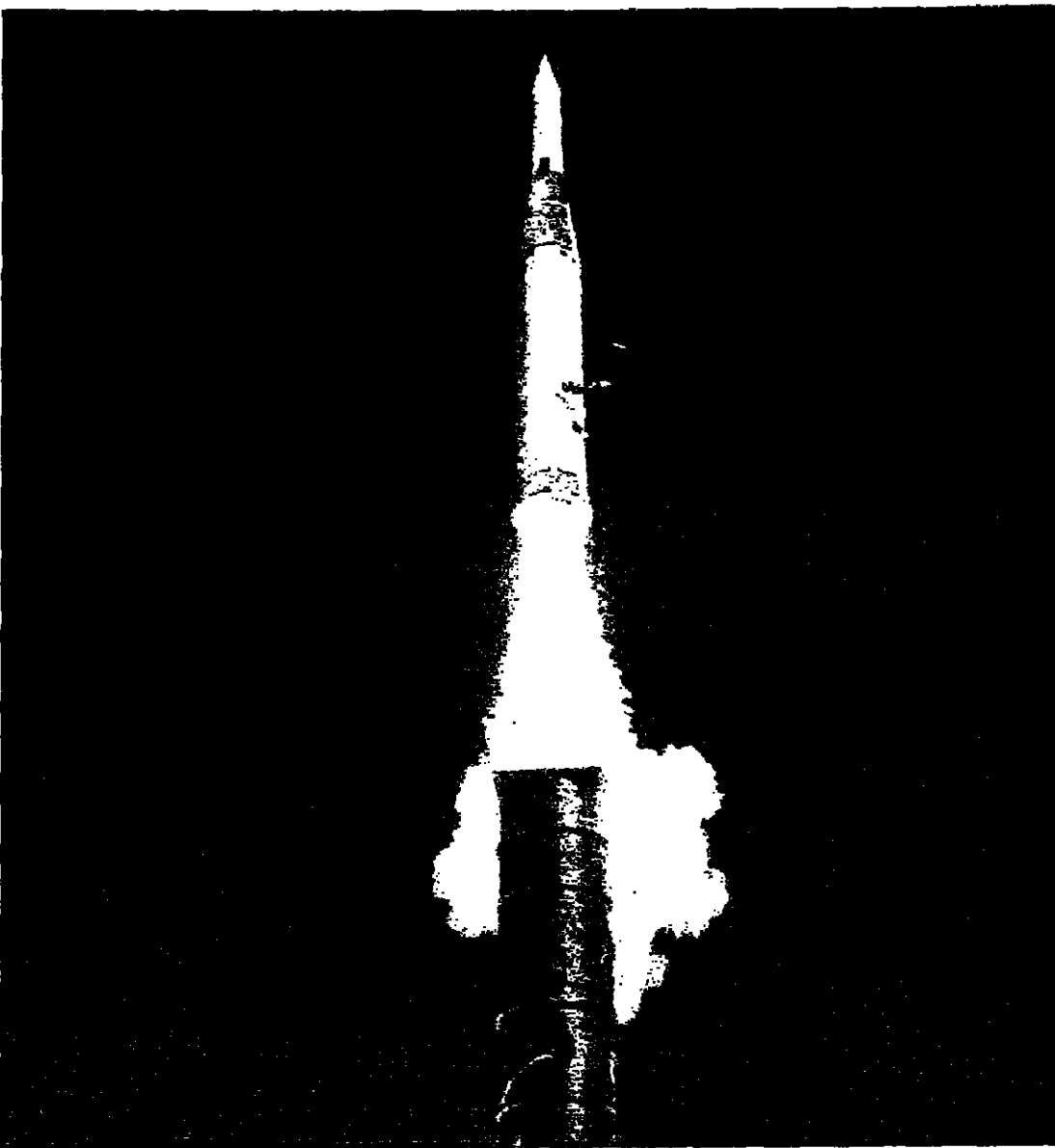
Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said he trusted the Americans would be able to bring the sides closer, and that an agreement would ultimately be reached.

On the main sticking points, the sides continued to talk across each other, with the Palestinians insisting they are fighting terror and calling upon the Israelis to commit themselves to the redeployment, and the Israelis insisting the withdrawal issues have been resolved and the deal is waiting for Palestinians to commit on the matter of fighting terror.

"Where are the maps?" Erekat asked. "Any piece of land transferred to us will be accepted. If we are told some of the land is to be designated as a nature reserve, so be it. We accept that, and protect the reserve."

"The problem is that the Israelis don't want to give us the land at all. Where are the maps? Where is this land?"

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's communications director David Bar-Ilan said in response that Israeli accountability was not even at issue and that the government's history of upholding its commitments has been "nothing short of admirable."



Arrow launch successful

By STEVE RODAN and ARNIE O'SULLIVAN

The Arrow-2 anti-ballistic missile, meant to provide the backbone of defense against attacking missiles, passed its first comprehensive test yesterday against a simulated enemy target.

The test - which successfully integrated the system's radar, fire control, and early warning components for the first time - marked the resumption of the \$1.6 billion anti-missile defense program following a failed test in August 1997, in which the Arrow-2 interceptor malfunctioned and was destroyed.

Officials said yesterday's success means the Arrow has proved it is a fully integrated system that can track an enemy missile from launch and destroy it.

The Arrow system is to be partially deployed next year, with its first battery becoming fully operational in 2000. In the following years, two more batteries are to be deployed in an attempt to provide Israel with significant, although far from total, protection from enemy ballistic missiles.

The major threat is regarded as coming from Iran, which is completing development of the Shihab-3 missile, with a range of 1,300 kilometers.

Yesterday's successful test of the Arrow-2 is to be followed shortly by another test of the missile defense shield, paving the way for the deployment of an operational system, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said yesterday.

Mordechai convened IDF commanders and defense officials in Tel Aviv yesterday to praise the heads of the Homa (Wall) anti-missile project. This includes the Arrow-2 missile, its Green Pine ballistic missile tracking radar, and Citron Tree fire-control system, all of which operated yesterday. He called the test a "great success, because everything worked excellently."

An Arrow-2 is launched yesterday from Palmachim Air Force Base. The IDF announced that the anti-missile missile successfully destroyed a simulated target in its first comprehensive test. (AP)

Congress assesses Clinton scandal

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Members of Congress returned to the capital yesterday after three days of hearing out the response of American voters to the graphic report on US President Bill Clinton's affair with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

Clinton, meanwhile, tried to leave behind the scandal that threatened his presidency by traveling to New York to tout his economic policy record and help raise money for Democrats.

But many of the Democrats in Congress were keeping their distance from the president, as they waited to see how the report by independent counsel Kenneth Starr was viewed by the public and how the White House responds to the crisis.

Neeman seeks to cut tax breaks for settlers, border residents

By DAVID RUDGE, DANNA HARMAN, and MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman intends to cut tax benefits currently enjoyed by settlers and high-earning residents of confrontation line communities in the North.

As part of the proposed change, residents of settlements within 15 kilometers of a town or city will stop receiving any tax breaks if the household has an income of NIS 12,500 or over.

Settlements in this category would include, among others, the Jerusalem suburbs of Ma'aleh Adumim and Givat Ze'ev, as well as Elkana, just outside Rosh Ha'ayin.

According to officials in Neeman's office, the minister believes there is no justice in the current tax break system, which allows people, including those with high incomes, to get breaks only because they live "a little bit out of town."

Local authority workers launch strike

By Jerusalem Post Staff

Some 100,000 local authority employees launched a strike at midnight last night after negotiations between their union and the Treasury on a retroactive salary payment broke down, though progress had been reported earlier.

The strike will shut down municipal departments, hospitals and kindergartens, and will include administrative staff in schools, garbage collectors and lifeguards.

The Dubrovnik question: Does a synagogue need Jews?

CENTRAL EUROPEAN JOURNAL
By STEVE RODAN

Second in a series on Central Europe.

DUBROVNIK, Croatia - Walk south down the large stone pathway of this medieval city toward city hall and turn left into an alley about 75 meters before the sun clock. Arrive at a tiny sign on the door announcing the Jewish community and walk up the stairs.

On the top floor is the second oldest synagogue in Europe, a structure from the 14th century that survived a horrific earthquake in 1683, two world wars, and communism.

Open the ark, however, and there are no Torah scrolls. Look around and notice that the silver ornaments are missing as well.

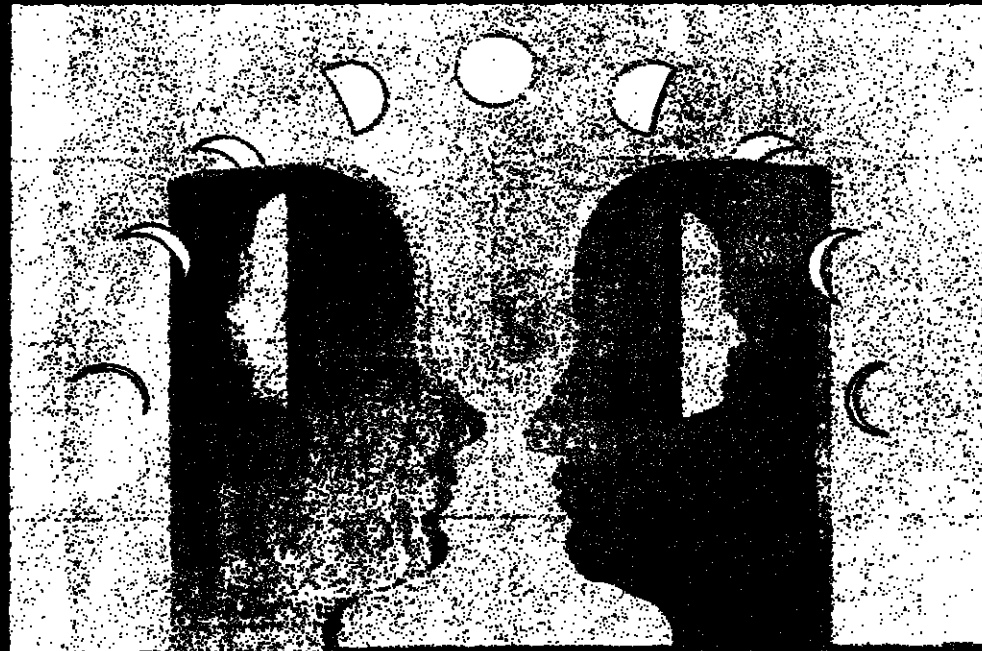
For nearly six years, the Jewish treasures of Dubrovnik have been held in New York in a dispute that has pitted the Croatian government and Jewish community against a former community leader. It has been a battle that points to a question often raised in Central and Eastern Europe - what should happen to a synagogue when there are no longer Jews to care for it?

"There is bitterness for all of us," says Ivana Burdelez, director of the International Center of Croatian Universities and a major player in the battle for the return of the Torah scrolls.

The scrolls and silver ornaments and covers were flown to New York in 1992 for an exhibition arranged by Yeshiva University. The scrolls were released by the then head of the Jewish community, Michael Papo.

A year later, the Dubrovnik synagogue wanted the scrolls and silver returned. But Papo balked. He said he signed the contract for the Jewish community and did not believe that the scrolls would be cared for properly in Dubrovnik.

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NEWS

in brief

9 soldiers hurt in blaze at Lebanon outpost

Nine IDF soldiers were lightly hurt as a result of smoke inhalation during a blaze that broke out at an IDF outpost in the eastern sector of the security zone last night. The soldiers were brought to Israel for treatment and seven were later transferred to Safed's Rebecca Sieff Hospital. According to reports from Lebanon, the incident that occurred at the Dlat stronghold was probably caused by an electrical short circuit.

There were also reports of several long-range mortar attacks on IDF and South Lebanese Army positions in the western and central sectors yesterday. There were no reports of any casualties in the attacks, for which IDF gunners returned fire.

David Rudge

Palestinian terror unit formed in Lebanon

A new Palestinian terrorist commando unit was unveiled on Sunday at the Ein Hilweh refugee camp near Sidon by Fatah rebel Col. Monir Makdahi, who formed a separate group known as Black September Uprising to protest the signing of the Oslo Accords five years ago.

Makdahi said that the new unit, comprising some 200 gunmen, would fight Israeli interests in the "Zionist state and all over the world."

David Rudge

Prince Hassan, Shahak discuss Mideast peace

Former chief of general staff Lt.-Gen. (res.) Amnon Lipkin Shahak met with Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan yesterday and discussed ways to end a stalemate in the peace negotiations with the Palestinians. Palace officials and Israeli diplomats gave few details on Shahak's 90-minute meeting with Hassan, who is acting as regent while King Hussein is receiving cancer treatment in the U.S. Media coverage of the meeting was banned.

Jordanian officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the talks were kept quiet because Shahak was on a private visit and the meeting with the prince was virtually a courtesy call. But the diplomats said the two discussed Israel's peace talks with the Palestinians.

AP

France, Egypt pursue peace conference idea

French and Egyptian officials met in Paris yesterday to pursue preparations for a proposed international conference to try to restart the stalled Middle East peace process, the French Foreign Ministry said. The meeting was the second of its kind since French President Jacques Chirac and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak first floated the idea during a visit to Paris by the Egyptian leader in May.

The statement issued yesterday reiterated that direct participants to the conflict — Israel, the Palestinians, Syria and Lebanon — would be excluded from initial stages but invited to join the conference once it laid solid groundwork for progress towards peace accords.

Reuters

Turkish jet hijacking ends peacefully

A Turkish Airlines Airbus carrying 76 people was hijacked on a domestic flight from Ankara yesterday, but the drama ended after it was forced to divert to the Black Sea city of Trabzon. Turkish media reported. There were no reports of injuries to any of the passengers and crew in the incident.

There was confusion about the number of hijackers involved. The Anatolian news agency reported that two were involved, but other media said just one person had taken over the plane.

Reuters

Three killed in head-on collision

Three people were killed yesterday afternoon in a head-on collision between two cars in Samaria. One person was seriously injured in the accident.

Itim

STRIKE

Continued from Page 1

During last night's talks, tentative agreement reportedly was reached on a 27 percent one-time payment to local authority workers as retroactive compensation for wage erosion, rather than the 30% promised to all public-sector employees under the terms of the deal that ended the Histadrut strike last week.

But at about 11 p.m. the talks

broke down.

Leon Morozovsky, who negotiated on behalf of the workers, said they would return to work only after they were given the payment promised to all other state employees.

"There is no way that I will allow workers to receive less than 30%," he said.

The head of the Union of Local Authorities in Israel, Adi Eldar, blamed Treasury officials for signing an "irresponsible agreement" with the Histadrut.

Correction: Health Ministry delegation head Yair Amikam said in Copenhagen yesterday that the ministry had never been invited to a just-concluded professional World Health Organization conference on microbial resistance, as the ministry had confirmed in yesterday's report in this paper. Instead, the delegation is participating in a procedural conference of the WHO's European region.

In meeting between US congressmen and MKs

Call to move on anti-missile systems

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON — Leading Pentagon officials believe that "there is a window of opportunity" for the US and Israel to finish developing and to deploy their own anti-missile systems while Iran and Iraq are developing long-range ballistic missiles. Labor MK Ephraim Sneh said here yesterday.

The assessment was shared at a Pentagon briefing between a visiting four-member Knesset delegation headed by Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee chairman Uzi Landau, and Lieutenant-Generals Edward Anderson, the joint chiefs of staff's director for strategic plans

and policy; Patrick Hughes, head of the Defense Intelligence Agency; and Lester Lyles, director of the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization.

"They are ahead of us. We have to know it very, very clearly. Their ability to hit Israel ... is far ahead of what we can do to contain it," Sneh told a hearing of the House National Security Committee, referring to the regional threats.

The appearance of the Knesset delegation in Congress was extraordinary by several measures. Foreign government officials and parliamentarians rarely testify on Capitol Hill.

Additionally, during the MKs' testimony, the dais, in an unusual

development, also included members of the Senate. And when several families of Israeli and American victims of missile attacks testified during the second half of the hearing, the MKs sat in the committee chairs on the dais with their hosts.

"What brings us together is a mutual threat, and the potential of our two countries to ameliorate that threat," Senator Jon Kyl told reporters prior to the hearing.

Kyl is a key supporter of missile defense programs and of American-Israeli cooperation in their development.

A reciprocal congressional visit to Israel could occur as soon as December, Kyl said.

House National Security Committee chairman Curt Weldon criticized the administration for not moving quickly enough to allocate funds to make theater missile defense systems operational although President Bill Clinton pledged two years ago to strengthen missile defense cooperation between the two countries.

"Here we are in 1998. We still do not have a highly effective system to take out incoming missiles," he said.

"What we want to make sure is that there is not just words or rhetoric, but that there is substance there. Words ring hollow if they're not backed up by a dollar-support

program," Weldon added. Aaron Moss, an official of the Defense Ministry's research and development bureau, who is accompanying the Landau delegation, called yesterday's Arrow test "fully successful" and said that "all the components worked as expected."

Landau, addressing the committee, said that while he is unsure how to comment about the test in an open hearing, "we can all smile now."

The group, which also includes Ran Cohen and Dan Meridor, meets today with several House and Senate committees and tomorrow will visit a naval cruiser in Norfolk, Virginia.

Reward offered for Dakar info

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

For the first time, Israel is offering a reward for any information leading to the discovery of the missing submarine *Dakar*, which disappeared with all hands on its maiden voyage from England to Israel in January 1968.

Advertisements for the reward were published in dailies in Turkey, Egypt, France, Greece, England, Russia and here yesterday. According to the advertisement, the Ministry of Defense and the Israel Navy are offering between \$5,000 and \$300,000 for previously unknown factual information regarding the *Dakar*, its precise location, or items from the sub. It also offered complete secrecy to anyone providing the information.

The IDF said yesterday that the announcement of the reward came at the end of the annual summer search for the *Dakar* in the Mediterranean. This year's search focused along the route the submarine was supposed to have taken. The US Navy research submarine NR-1, which has helped search for the *Dakar* in the past, also joined in the summer sweep.

The IDF said the reward was offered after consultations with the families of the 69 sailors from the missing submarine.

Numerous searches have been undertaken for the *Dakar*. Last summer the US Navy aided in a sweep of the ocean floor near the Aegean Sea, but no signs of the wreckage were found.

It is believed the *Dakar* dived deeper than it should have due to human error or a technical malfunction, thus causing its frame to buckle under the weight of the sea.

Anyone wishing to obtain a more detailed explanation of the reward can request it from the Administration of the Search Program for the *Dakar* Military PO Box 01068, IDF, Israel. The last date to submit information is December 14, the announcement said.



Uzbeki president arrives

Uzbeki President Islam Karimov (center) reviews an IDF honor guard escorted by President Ezer Weizman at Beit Hamassi yesterday. There is a crisis of confidence in Israeli-Palestinian relations, Weizman told his guest, noting that his visit is taking place as the fifth anniversary of the Oslo Accords is being marked and close to the 20th anniversary of Camp David. The two sides should learn the lessons of these historic dates and overcome their obstacles so that the peace which is so badly needed can be achieved, he said. "A strong nation like Israel can and should make peace," said Weizman. Also on hand to welcome Karimov were Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky.

(Text: Batsheva Tsaur; photo: Kevin Unger)

10,000 Palestinians to be allowed into Israel

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

The IDF last night announced some easing of the closure in the territories, saying that as of this morning, 7,000 Palestinians would be allowed to enter Israel to work — 5,000 from Gaza and 2,000 from the West Bank.

In addition, 3,000 businessmen and merchants will be allowed to enter.

The closure imposed on the territories following the killing of the Awadallah brothers last week remains in effect, though security officials said they have only general warnings, rather than information relating to specific planned attacks.

Speaking to Channel 1 last night, however, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said that security forces had received "specific warnings."

Mordechai said he was not certain whether the closure would extend past the High Holy Days.

Security forces are still on high alert, and have beefed up their presence in the large cities, border areas,

and in the West Bank settlements.

The 7,000 Palestinians being allowed into Israel have all been registered in a project dubbed "Continuous Work," a system initiated by Mordechai to allow workers with permits to work even during closures, and even to stay overnight in Israel if necessary.

Some 30,000 Palestinians are registered to participate in the project.

Under the arrangement, the employers of these workers must commit to paying all legally mandated social benefits and safeguard the workers' personal security. For example, if there is a terror attack, the employer must be able to guard his workers against revenge attacks.

The closure, military sources insisted, remains an effective tool for hampering terrorist activities.

The security situation is reviewed daily, the sources said, with an eye to easing the restrictions when possible. Yesterday trucks transporting produce were allowed to enter Israel, and families from the West Bank and Gaza are now permitted

to visit relatives in prison but they must be accompanied.

Government Coordinator for the Territories Shlomo Dror said there are some 60,000 Palestinians with permits to work in Israel. By adding to that number businessmen, merchants, hospital workers and doctors, the number usually permitted to enter reaches some 95,000.

Military sources said yesterday that while the Awadallahs' death has dealt a serious blow to Hamas's military operations in Judea and Samaria, there are dozens of Izzadin Kassam activists still at large.

The sources added there is concern that Hamas's military operations in Gaza could take over the West Bank operations if Israel succeeds in clamping down on the area's activists.

Likud MK Gideon Ezra, former deputy head of the General Security Service, believes that the closure is ineffective and just as it doesn't prevent Israeli vehicles being stolen, it cannot prevent terrorists from infil-

trating into Israel.

A far more effective measure against terrorists, said Ezra, is carrying out surprise operations against them.

"The only Palestinians who obey the closure are those who have legal permits to work in Israel," he said. "While Hamas has said it will carry out revenge attacks it has not said when the attacks will take place. So how long will the closure remain in effect?"

Instead, said Ezra, Israel should call on the Palestinians to fight terror and make them realize that if they want Palestinians to continue working in Israel then they must comply.

He dismissed charges that security cooperation between Israel and the Palestinians is nonexistent and declared that he wouldn't be surprised if there had been complicity by both sides in the deaths of the Awadallahs and that of Muhi Sharif in Ramallah in March.

Arieh O'Sullivan contributed to this report.

Greece to invite Mordechai for visit

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Greece, which has heavily criticized the growing military alliance between Israel and Turkey, announced yesterday it has invited Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai to Athens this fall.

According to an announcement by Greek Defense Minister Kostas Tsoukalas, the visit will take place in October or November.

Tsoukalas said he is to discuss with Mordechai the implementation of a military pact signed between Greece and Israel in 1994, but never carried out.

The pact, similar to the one signed with Turkey, calls for joint naval exercises and rescue operations, as well as joint air maneuvers.

Mordechai's spokesman Avi Benayahu confirmed that a visit to Greece was planned for this autumn, but no date has yet been set.

Greece has earmarked an estimated \$24 billion over the next five years for new fighter jets, missiles, ships, tanks and other weapons.

Israeli defense industries have expressed interest in helping Greece upgrade its military forces.

The commander of the Greek Air Force is expected to visit here from October 13-16, the announcement from Athens said.

OC Air Force Maj.-Gen. Eitan Ben-Eliyahu visited Greece in January 1997.

Levy: Budget debate was theater of the absurd

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Gesher leader David Levy blasted the budget approved by the cabinet Sunday night, calling the debate over it "the theater of the absurd."

"Most ministers vowed they'd oppose the budget and some threatened to resign," Levy said. "Suddenly everyone's in favor and happy, claiming to have received millions, while the finance minister announces he hasn't given them anything. Clearly everyone's lying to us. The question is who is deceiving whom."

Levy said the budget, which forebodes nothing but deeper recession and greater unemployment, is a result of the erroneous government policy which had caused him to quit the cabinet.

"Everything is built on pretense and illusion," he said. "The government is cut off from reality and blind to social woes and economic plight. It's a catastrophe. The cabinet is amusing itself with virtual images, while everything around us is collapsing."

Former finance minister Avraham Shohat (Labor) said the

budget is clearly a deception.

"The question is whether we are witnessing self-deception [of the ministers] or whether the prime minister and finance minister are leading the ministers astray," he said.

Shohat explained there is no

way the ministers could have received an additional sum of NIS 2 billion without exceeding the budget framework as Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman claimed.

Shohat also scoffed at Neeman's much promised tax reform.

"The finance minister has been promising us a reform for a year," he said. "In February he said he will put it into effect in March, in March he said July. Neeman has no reform. It's all part of the deception which includes the reform and the budget changes."



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By BATSHEVA TSAUR

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Amnon, Eyal and...

was a special prize.

صوتنا من الامل

Barak seeking centrist bloc

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Labor Party leader Ehud Barak is trying to form a large, central bloc consisting of Geshet leader MK David Levy, Yisrael Ba'aliya, Likud MK Dani Meridor, former chief of general staff Amnon Lipkin-Shahak and members of The Third Way.

According to this plan, Labor and Barak will form the center of the new bloc and provide a framework for various communities in Israeli society, including new immigrants, traditional groups, and development town residents, sources close to Barak said yesterday.

Barak has been holding talks and meetings

with Levy, Sharansky, Meridor, Lubotzky, Ma'ayan Vilna'i, and others for this purpose.

This move is part of Barak's efforts to infuse new content and energy into Labor, as outlined by MK Shlomo Ben-Ami's 100-day program, which recommends adjusting Labor to Israeli society.

Levy yesterday half-hinted at this possibility when he predicted a new party or political framework — "perhaps a centrist party" — which would run for the elections.

"I foresee a great change in the political structure. It's a mistake to remain captive to the old concept that the public is divided between Right and Left. That division no

longer exists," Levy said.

"The existing political frameworks no longer answer the needs. What is necessary now is a new framework, a new party, which I will be a part of and which I'm working on forming," he said.

Levy refused to say whether he would run for prime minister as head of the new party or just be part of it.

"Why should I decide now whether to run for prime minister in a thing which hasn't yet been formed? Most of the public is for advancing the elections," he said. "That's the first priority, together with finding a solution to the social and economic problems."

Netanyahu rejects presidential idea

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday rejected the suggestion of his close supporter and former office director, Avigdor Lieberman, to enact a presidential system.

Lieberman said he was working on a plan that would give the prime minister the same kind of powers held by the president of the United States.

"Such a system would enable the prime minister to deal only with affairs of state, without being dependent on his coalition partners," Lieberman said yesterday on Israel Radio's *It's All Talk*.

The Election Law (The Knesset and The Prime Minister) providing for the direct election of the prime minister has "failed to sever

the dependence of the government on coalition pressures," said Lieberman.

"The present situation is neither here nor there. It's impossible to function this way. This move is important for the state. It needs a new system which will enable fast decisions."

Lieberman added that, if his proposal is implemented, there would be no need for the position of president.

Lieberman asserted that Netanyahu was not behind his initiative, but stated he would go on pushing it in the Likud central committee.

"I said when I left the Prime Minister's Office that I was not resigning from political life and I meant it. I'm involved and this [initiative] has nothing to do with any

official position I might get in the future," Lieberman said.

Netanyahu's spokesman said the prime minister thinks there are positive aspects to a presidential system, but there is no point in dealing with an initiative which doesn't have a chance of being realized.

Deputy Minister Michael Eitan sharply criticized Lieberman's initiative, saying it is part of a greater plan to take over the power centers of the state and set up a totalitarian regime in the style of Franco and Stalin.

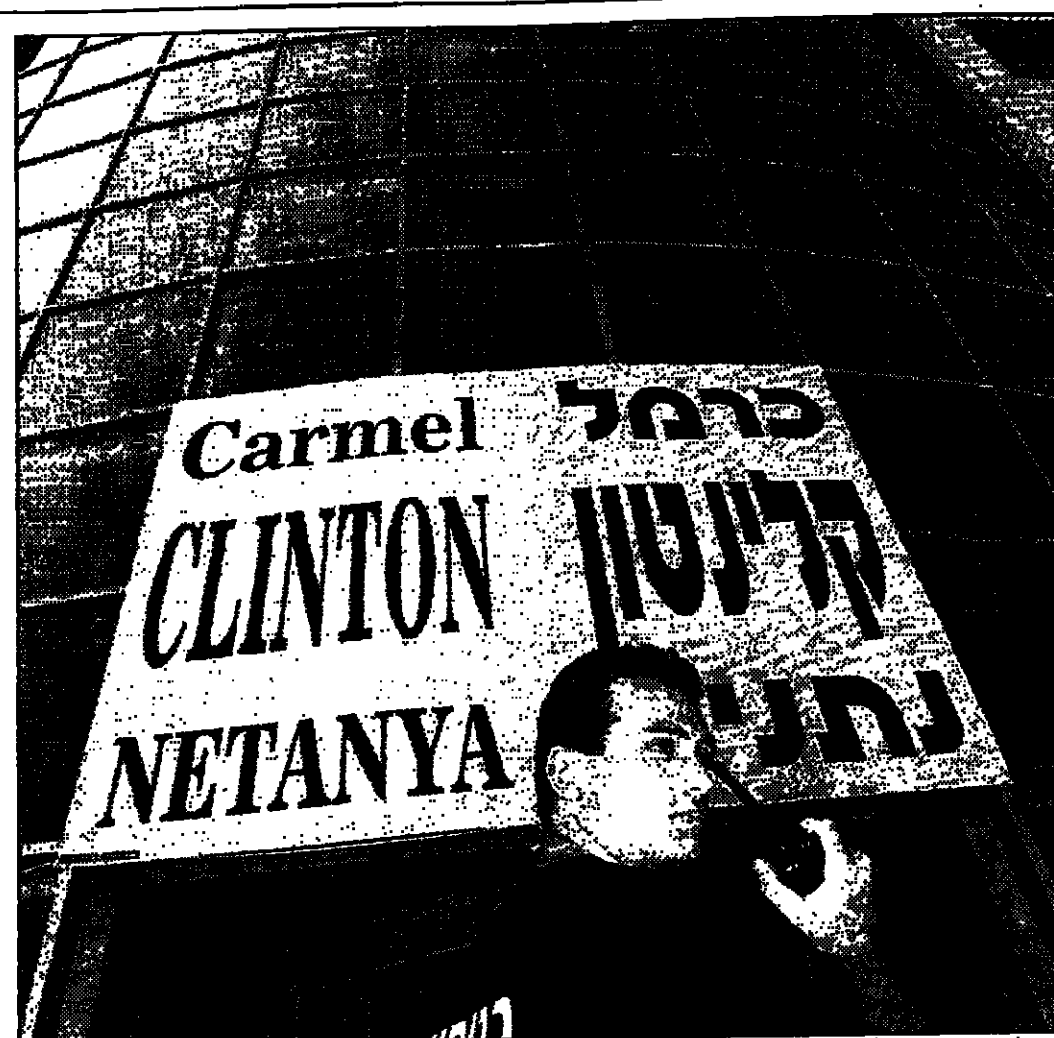
"Under the guise of a constitutional amendment lurks the attempt of a gang of people to take over the power hubs of the Likud and the state and set up a dictatorship," Eitan said.

"What Lieberman is saying is, the prime minister doesn't need a

coalition or an opposition. That means one man can make the decisions, without all those coalition and opposition obstacles, for the sake of efficiency. He may be talking about getting more power for the prime minister, but what he really means is more power for himself, Avigdor Lieberman," he said.

Eitan added that Lieberman caused severe harm to the Likud and to the prime minister, and that is why Netanyahu ejected him from his office.

Netanyahu will not back Lieberman's initiative, Likud insiders said yesterday, for fear ministers and MKs who oppose it will support abolishing the law for personal elections, which has already passed preliminary reading and which he supports.



No reservations about Clinton

A security guard stands yesterday outside a Netanyahu hotel that temporarily renamed itself the "Carmel Clinton Netanyahu" on Sunday night, in a show of solidarity as President Bill Clinton faces the threat of impeachment in Washington. "We don't look at the item of Monica. We look at Clinton himself," Carmel spokesman Zvi Wilder told Reuters. "He is the people's president." A poll in August showed Clinton more popular than any Israeli politician. (Yael Somich/Israel Sun)

PM's adviser's conflict of interests being checked

By BATSHEVA TSUR

The attorney-general has begun a preliminary investigation into alleged conflicts of interests on the part of Rami Sadan, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's adviser on the religious and haredi sector.

The investigation follows a complaint from MK Ophir Pines (Labor), the Justice Ministry spokesperson said. Pines's complaint was in response to a series of investigative reports by *Yediot Aharonot*.

Civil Service Commissioner Shmuel Hollander said this week that there appeared to be a conflict of interests between Sadan's activities in the Prime Minister's Office and his personal business as a public relations agent and lobbyist.

Sadan was reportedly hired as an external adviser to Netanyahu and members of his staff, to consult with them on relations with the religious sector. He is reportedly being paid \$3,000 per

month.

But he allegedly did not report his personal business ties outside the public sector to Civil Service officials. This, Hollander said, could create a conflict of interests.

"Anyone who has the title of adviser to the prime minister has an advantage in getting clients, particularly among those who need the services of the government or its agencies," Hollander said, in a report submitted to Netanyahu on Sunday.

"The status of the adviser, who is seen by the public as someone close to the prime minister, creates the impression that he is someone who can move things forward," he added.

"A person who has access to classified information must come under the purview of the Civil Service Law," Hollander notes. "If the Prime Minister's Office wishes to continue employing Sadan, it is fitting that he should be employed on a special contract as a civil servant, like other advisers."

Teen cabbie killers charged with armed robbery

The two youths who murdered cab driver Derek Roth in January 1994 were charged yesterday with robbing a grocery store and wounding the storekeeper while on furlough from Sharon Prison in February.

The charge sheet, which was presented in Tel Aviv District Court, also accused the youths of trying to rob a jewelry store, planning other robberies, and interfering with the investigation.

The court also heard a petition for the youths' names to be made public. The petition noted that, while the youths were minors when they shot Roth to death with a stolen gun for fun, they are now 19 and are not entitled to immunity for crimes they commit now.

This is especially true, the petition continued, since they are not ashamed of their actions. One of the youths bragged about the murder to a girl he met during a furlough and then threatened to murder her and rape her friend, according to the petition.

According to the charge sheet,

the youths, who are serving 16-year sentences for the murder, planned a series of robberies after they lost their prison jobs at a factory at Kibbutz Ga'ash and were left with a monthly income of NIS 300-400. They were fired from the factory, where they earned NIS 1,000 as convict laborers, for improper behavior.

They allegedly compiled a list of targets, including a produce store, illegal casino, restaurants, and theaters. They also allegedly bought binoculars, gloves, and hats so they could carry out the robberies during their monthly 72-hour furloughs.

On February 3, after checking out for their furlough, the youths returned to their parents' homes in Herzliya and then unsuccessfully tried to rob a jewelry store, according to the charge sheet. Next they went to a local grocery store, where they allegedly stabbed the 67-year-old storekeeper and stole approximately NIS 400.

The hearing is to continue on September 27. (tim)



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AD 120

People of the year

Former chief of general staff Lt.-Gen. (res.) Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, former Mahat anchorwoman Geula Even, singer Eyal Golan, fashion model Shirli Buganim, writer Meir Shalev and basketball player Oded Katash were among the winners at the Man of the Year awards ceremony, which was broadcast on Channel 2 last night and was organized by the Hebrew daily *Yediot Aharonot*. Eurovision Song Contest winner Dana International also won a special prize.

Prizes were awarded in nine categories: theater; music; sport; entertainment; television; literature; children's TV; fashion; and politics. A panel of judges and the public selected the winners from five nominees in each category. The judges' votes counted for 20 percent of the tally. The decisive votes came from the general public, who wrote or called in their choices for any or all of the categories. (Heleen Kaye and Sonie Lemor)

Officials in North avoid taxes

Organizations unite to fight cuts in health services

By DAVID RUDGE

The Interior Ministry is to conduct a nationwide survey of municipal tax collection among councilors and officials following the discovery that some of them in nearly 40 out of the 100 councils in the North have evaded payments.

Interior Minister Eli Shaisa said measures were being taken to ensure that all elected representatives and council officials who owed money on local taxes, including water and sewage rates, would pay their debts.

According to a report by the Interior Ministry's northern region commissioner, Yigal Shahar, some officials and councilors had also taken loans from municipal coffers which had not been repaid.

Shahar ordered the councils in question — including Tiberias, Shfaram, Migdal, Reina, Nahf,

Shibli, Arrabe, Shlomi and others — to rectify the situation immediately or details would be passed to the police.

According to the Interior Ministry report, the amount of outstanding debts owed by councilors and municipal officials in the North runs into hundreds of thousands of shekels.

Adi Eldar, chairman of the Union of Local Authorities in Israel, instructed all councils throughout the country to carry out a thorough examination.

He said that if the details of the Interior Ministry's survey in the North were correct, complaints should be lodged with the police for action to be taken against the perpetrators.

Eldar said the allegations made in the report, if proven, constituted corruption and misuse of public office by councilors and municipal employees.

Suissa, in an interview with Israel Radio, said steps would be taken to recoup debts from council members and municipal employees who had not paid their local taxes and water rates.

He maintained there were some places, particularly in the Arab sector, where non-payment of municipal taxes was part of the norm.

"I find many places in the Arab sector where I ask why the collection rate of municipal taxes is low [less than 20 percent] and they say that here they were not accustomed to having to pay," said Suissa. "This is a norm. I don't hear this in the Jewish sector, although among the Jewish councilors there is still a situation where the collection of municipal taxes is not as [good as] it should be."

He warned that allocations to councils which did not fulfill their

duty in collecting municipal rates would be cut.

Shfaram Mayor Ibrahim Nisar Hussein, whose council was named as one of those where some councilors had not paid their municipal taxes, said the people in question had been sent warning notices prior to the Interior Ministry's report.

As a result, six of those in question had made arrangements to pay their debts, although three had yet to do so.

Furthermore, he noted that the collection rate of municipal taxes in the town was around 70%, which was higher than the national average and better than in many Jewish towns and villages.

Abed Inbitawi, spokesman for the monitoring committee of the Israeli Arab leadership, stressed that the socio-economic status of residents in Arab towns and villages was much worse, on average, than in the Jewish sector.

By JUDY SIEGEL

A national public struggle against the severe deterioration of the health system is being launched today by the umbrella organization Finger on the Pulse.

The 20 health and human rights organizations participating in the effort are protesting against the closure of hundreds of health fund clinics on Fridays, reduction in referrals to hospital outpatient clinics, cuts in clinic hours in the afternoons and even strict limitations on in-vitro fertilization treatments.

In addition, the organizations want to head off the levying of user fees for health services, especially charging for visits to medical specialists.

Booths for signing petitions will be set up starting 10 a.m. today in

Jerusalem (4 Rehov Abba Hilkia, in the Katamonim) and Tel Aviv (Kikar Magen David, at the corner of Allenby and King George streets).

Others will be added later.

The government and the four health funds have been at an impasse for weeks, as the Treasury refuses to hand over more than NIS 500 million in debts and loans until the insurers sign an agreement limiting their expenses without them being notified of their potential income for next year.

Although the Health Ministry had intended the user's fee system to begin at the beginning of September, it has not been carried out because of the Treasury's failure to carry out its part of the deal by transferring the debts and loans.

Having already cut services, the insurers are attempting to implement jointly an emergency plan that would close most of the community clinics and run a small number of facilities to provide only urgent care.

Meanwhile, the State Attorney's Office has informed a group of public organizations and parents' committees that in a month, nurses' stations will be reduced to 12 "unrecognized" Beduin settlements in the Negev. The organizations had threatened to take their case to the High Court of Justice, arguing that health services in schools in these areas had been minimal for decades.

The Authority for Beduin Education said it couldn't provide services because the schools lacked nurses' stations.

Jericho casino is ready to take bets

By ORIEY FAY CASHMAN

Given the huge media turnout and the stringent security checks, anyone might have thought the camera crews and reporters had come for a press conference with the prime minister. But this was Jericho yesterday, and what the members of the fourth estate had come for was a preview of the \$50 million Oasis Casino, which opens tonight for invited guests and tomorrow night for the general public.

The first major international investment project in the Palestinian Authority, the \$150 million Oasis resort complex will, when completed, directly and indirectly provide 5,000 high-income jobs, said Dr. Norbert Steger, president of the CAP Tourism Company, which owns and operates Oasis.

A vice chancellor of Austria during the Kreisky regime, Steger said that the Oasis complex, a joint venture with Palestinian businessmen, "will put Jericho on the international map of tourist attractions."

Oasis managing director Alexander Tuck, who 27 years ago began his career as a dealer for Casinos Austria in Vienna, said the gaming area extends for 2,800 square meters and contains 35 gaming tables and 220 slot machines. There is a VIP lounge for high rollers who want to gamble in relative privacy, where the tables are blue instead of the traditional green baize. The gaming area can comfortably hold 1,500 people.

Although it would seem that Israelis will make up the bulk of the clientele — the PA has decided

that Palestinians other than employees will not be allowed to enter — Tuck was quick to emphasize that Oasis is aiming for tourists. Many of these are close by at Dead Sea resort hotels, in addition to which "Amman is only 30 minutes away." The Oasis will soon begin operating shuttle services from Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, Tuck said.

Palestinians with foreign passports will be able to beat the system. "If someone shows us a passport, how would we know he's a Palestinian?" said Steger.

Tuck said the Oasis has its own security team, headed by an Australian. It also has the cooperation of the Palestinian Police and the Israeli Police. "I'm sure this is a secure place," he said.

He doubted that outside politics would affect what happens inside the casino. "People coming into the casino forget about the atmosphere outside," said Tuck.

Casinos Austria CEO Paul Herzfeld noted that in the multi-cultural surrounding of its international business activities, Casinos Austria had established itself as a reliable partner of many different governments, "a transparent operator and a respected company."

All three speakers underlined that the Oasis project is paving the way for other large-scale foreign investments in the PA and predicted it would be a catalyst for economic prosperity.

Several journalists yesterday felt like millionaires, as croupiers handed out huge quantities of chips for them to play for fun. Many promised to come back with dollars. Minimum bets are \$5 on blackjack and \$2 on roulette.



Croupier Sheryl Golding of Adelaide, Australia, gives a roulette wheel a trial spin yesterday at Jericho's Oasis casino. (Brian Hendler)

Parents, teachers vow to fight cuts in education budget

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Education Ministry officials yesterday insisted that the cuts in the ministry budget approved in the proposed state budget only amount to some NIS 100 million and not the NIS 200m. previously proposed and reported.

Nonetheless, parents and teachers groups vowed to fight any cuts in the education budget.

Education Minister Yitzhak Levy's media adviser Itzik Rath insisted the ministry received written undertakings preventing any reduction in classroom hours for this year, plus other financial improvements.

These agreements, reached prior to Sunday's final discussion of the budget, were what made it possible for Levy to back the budget.

However, there appeared to be some confusion over the issue, and even Treasury and ministry spokesmen were still struggling to digest all the numbers yesterday afternoon.

"There is no cut of NIS 200m., but rather NIS 100m., and the cut is not in classroom hours but rather via efficiency measures we will take within the ministry," Rath said. "We also have a document signed by the Finance Ministry worth some NIS 300m. for other matters."

He said the additional NIS 100m. in cuts affecting classroom hours were cancelled.

A document signed by ministry director-general Ben Zion Dell and Treasury deputy budget director Haim Peltz, sent to The Jerusalem Post by the Education Ministry, calls for cutting the education budget for the year 2000-2001 by NIS 100m. by deducting 25,000 classroom hours.

However, the agreement allows the ministry to propose alternative sources for cuts prior to final preparation of the budget proposal.

The document also includes other commitments which Rath said allowed Levy to back the budget, including Treasury funds for 45,000 classroom hours; more money for special education, renovations, programs for the Falash Mura, and busing.

However, the agreement also

extends the date for completion of the long school day project to 2004.

However, a Treasury official said: "They showed the additional money they are getting; there's also a cut of hundreds of millions — that they didn't show you, did they?"

Meanwhile, parents and teachers strike responded angrily to initial reports of the NIS 200m. cut, and Levy's voting for the budget.

"I was shocked to hear this, considering the minister had proposed a NIS 1.7 billion increase. Now we're hearing that not only aren't we getting any additional budget, but they're cutting NIS 200m," Israel Parents Association Chairman Shai Lachman said.

"Such a cut will have a very serious impact on the education system, which in the past two years has been cut by more than a NIS 1b., returning it to the 1980s. We will fight any cut in the education budget."

Lachman said the weaker sectors would be the primary targets of the cuts, including special education, the Arab sector, and state education.

Knesset Education Committee Chairman Emanuel Zissman, on a visit to Tiberias, said he was still studying the figures, but said he had told Levy he had the committee's backing against any cuts. "After all, if there are cuts, how will we run the long school day program and run programs for values education and how will the minister make his commitments regarding special education and other matters?"

MK Ophir Pines (Labor), a member of the Knesset Finance Committee, vowed to fight the measure and accused Levy of going along with the plan only after first ensuring Levy's own interests within the ministry were addressed.

"I'm sure that former education minister Zevulun Hammer would never have agreed to such a thing," Pines said, "and I think that this government has been proving all along that education is a low priority for it, and it's too bad that rather than serve as a dam against this, he is cooperating with it."

Don't put your money on Israeli casinos soon

By SHI DAVID

Legalized gambling may be coming to Jericho, but Israelis who want to flirt with Lady Luck at a casino won't be doing it inside Israel, at least for now.

As the new Oasis Casino in Jericho gets set to welcome bettors, an ideological battle between capitalism and religion is preventing casinos from spreading on Israeli soil.

The capitalist argument says that at a time when budgets are being cut, the government is overlooking a new revenue source.

Casinos Austria says the Palestinian Authority will get \$2 million in each of the first two or three years of the casino's operation while investors recoup their investment. After that, its revenues will be taxed at about 30 percent.

The casino has already created 400 jobs for Palestinians.

"I think it's stupid that Israelis have to drive to Jericho, under who knows what danger, to a casino, and all their money is taken from Israel and given to the PA," said Likud Party whip Meir Sheinitz.

In July, Sheinitz submitted a private member's bill to the Knesset to legalize gambling. Strong opposition from the religious parties stymied the bill in its preliminary reading.

The bill had also failed about six months earlier.

The Gavish Committee on Casinos, which submitted its recommendations in January 1996, suggested opening two casinos on a trial basis, and if they were successful, to open another three. But the plans were buried after the change in government later that year.

Sheinitz said that he plans to present the bill a third time, after the six-month waiting period for rejected bills passes.

The religious argue that the financial benefits of legalizing gambling are outweighed by the social ills that accompany it. The Talmud compares gambling to stealing and the Mishna blames it for public disasters.

Israelis already gamble on casino boats that sail out of Eilat. Police have also been unable to stop the swell of illegal casinos in the big cities.

ARROW

Continued from Page 1

Yesterday's launch "proves we are [moving] in the right direction," he said. "I'm sure the next test will be successful and we will be able to deploy the Homa system for protecting the skies of Israel against ballistic missiles."

"We are supposed to be carrying out another test shortly... The next test will include the firing of a rocket and it shall be a missile hitting a missile. The Arrow missile will shoot down a real missile. Thus we will be able to say we have an operational system."

Israel had originally planned to deploy just two Arrow-2 batteries, but has since sought and won promises of partial funding for a third battery. At yesterday's meeting, Mordechai praised the US participation in the multi-million dollar project.

"This is a unique project, the

only one like it in the world. We have [received] many requests from far-off and nearby nations to link up with the Homa defense against ballistic missiles, which is turning into the main threat in the world we live in," Mordechai said.

Officials said that in July Mordechai approved the Arrow program budget and program for the next decade, in which the system is to be integrated into the multi-layer plan of the ministry and IDF.

Mordechai said that intelligence information shows that advanced missile technology is continuing to flow from Russia to Iran, despite vows by Moscow to halt the aid.

He said that the worsening economic situation would actually make it more difficult to stop Russian companies from helping Iran develop its medium-range Shihab-3 surface-to-surface missile and the longer-range Shihab-4.

"This is a big day for the State of Israel," Uzi Rubin, director of the Homa program said in a toast to

Arrow staffers after the launch. "We are in the midst of a race against the arming of our enemies, and thanks to you engineers, soldiers, and officers who are engaged in the Arrow's development, we are standing up to the challenge."

Rubin's American counterpart, Joe Butler, Arrow project manager at the Pentagon's Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, agreed.

"This was a bull's-eye," he said. A statement released by the Defense Ministry and the Pentagon's Arrow Project Directorate said the success of the test is an "important milestone in building an operational response to the threat of surface-to-surface missiles."

Officials said all components of the Arrow system "actively participated" in the test, which took place at 2:41 p.m. at the Palmachim Air Force Base near Ashdod. They said the launch was not meant to intercept an actual target.

Instead, the enemy missile was

simulated. The Green Pine fire-control radar, developed by Ashdod-based Elta Electronics Industries Ltd., spotted the enemy launch, tracked its flight, and sent the data to the intercept management system, Citron Tree, developed by Tadiran Electronic Systems Ltd. of Holon.

At that point, the Citron Tree, a command and control system, transmitted an intercept order to the Arrow launcher, which fired the missile. Officials said the Arrow flight lasted 97 seconds and the warhead was activated.

Executives at Israel Aircraft Industries, the prime contractor of the Arrow, said the successful launch proved their assertion that the August 1997 failure stemmed from a minor problem. Defense Ministry Director-General Ilan Biran ordered a thorough review of that launch to ensure that the Arrow would not fail in a future test.

NEEMAN

Continued from Page 1

Neeman's decision, however, is bound to cause a great deal of controversy and is already being defined as political dynamite, especially as it would also affect residents of border-line communities in the North.

According to a Channel 2 report, the proposal suggests the cut-off level for households in confrontation-line communities in the North would be NIS 25,000 a month for households.

Until now, residents of these border communities have received income tax reductions of up to 25 percent. Settlers receive a 7% credit.

The tax breaks were intended to encourage people to move to these areas, and to compensate residents for the security situation.

Neeman's proposal is an adoption of recommendations made by a special committee headed by retired Judge Zvi Tal, which was set up by Neeman's predecessor, Dan Meridor.

The aim of the committee was to lay down new, non-political criteria for tax breaks, which would remain constant despite changes of government and new orders of priority.

Neeman intends to incorporate the recommendations into proposed tax reforms that are to be announced soon.

Settlement leaders said the proposal would be a serious blow to

their communities but added that the issue needed to be examined carefully.

Yehudit Tayar, spokeswoman for the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, said Neeman's plans would not only hinder development and growth in the communities but would also make it difficult to attract professionals and families to them.

Shlomo Buhbut, chairman of the forum of heads of confrontation-line communities in the North, said the proposals are scandalous.

Buhbut said the forum would fight against the proposed cuts, which he maintained would result in only the low-paid living in the North.

SCANDAL

Continued from Page 1

National polls show continued strong support for Clinton to remain in office and Democratic Representative Robert Wexler said he met with 300-400 people in his Florida district and not one of them said they wanted impeachment.

Wexler, a member of the House of Representatives' Judiciary Committee, which would be

responsible for handling any impeachment hearings, said, however, some sort of presidential censure or reprimand was on the voters' minds.

"Many of the people I spoke to are concerned there needs to be some consequence to the president's inexcusable behavior," he added, an opinion that opinion polls also showed was on the rise.

Clinton did not mention the scandal while delivering a major speech on the world's economic problems

to the Council on Foreign Relations.

The only protesters outside were two men with a banner reading, "Save the Presidency. Jail Kenneth Starr."

In his 445-page report released on Friday, Starr said Clinton committed 11 possibly impeachable offenses in his affair with the former White House intern and included pages of sexual detail to back up his claims.

The next step for Congress is to

have the House of Representatives' Judiciary Committee decide whether it should go ahead with an inquiry into impeachment, the first for a president since Richard Nixon and Watergate in 1974.

Committee members yesterday were looking into more than 2,000 pages of appendices and 17 boxes of backup evidence that Starr also provided. They have to decide by September 28 how much more to release to the public.

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صلى الله عليه وسلم

Police raid Arutz 7 J'lem studio

By AMY KLEIN

The police yesterday confiscated two transmitters and two antennas used by the Arutz 7 pirate radio station in an apartment in Jerusalem's Kiryat Moshe neighborhood, police spokesman Elihu Ben-Onn announced.

In yesterday's raid police acted on a complaint from the Communications Ministry and the action was part of a continuing investigation of the station, Ben-Onn said. The raid was conducted by the police's international crimes unit, which has been handling the case.

The unit had raided offices and a recording studio belonging to Arutz 7 nearly three months ago in Beit El, Psagot, Har Bracha and Tel Aviv. It confiscated equipment and gathered evidence that reportedly proves the station broadcasts from inside Israel and not outside its territorial waters, as it claims.

In June, the cabinet formed a ministerial committee headed by Education Minister Yitzhak Levy to seek a legislative basis for enabling pirate radio stations such as Arutz 7 to continue broadcasting.

There has been no progress on legalizing the radio stations," said the minister's communications adviser, Yitzhak Rath. "All avenues

require a change of legislation, and we are far from a solution," he said.

Ben-Onn said pirate radio stations break the law and police will continue to investigate anyone involved with them as long as their status does not change. There are some 70 pirate radio stations operating in Israel, police estimate.

Arutz 7 manager Ya'acov Katz said the station does not talk to the press and has no comment.

Margot Dudkevitch adds: Pinhas Wallerstein, chairman of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza, sent urgent cables to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Minister of Internal Security Avigdor Kahalani demanding an end to what he called the "witch hunt" on Arutz 7.

Council spokeswoman Yehudit Tayar said there is a consensus to allow the station to continue operating and it is regrettable that the country's "nationalist government" has taken such drastic steps. The station has been broadcasting for some 10 years, she said, and if there are certain things that need to be clarified to allow the station to operate legally then such steps should be taken. The cable charged that such acts taken by a "nationalist government" impairs its ideology.



Policemen carry confiscated broadcasting equipment from an Arutz 7 studio yesterday.

(Flash 9)

Population at 5.987 million

POPULATION OF ISRAEL

The nation's population stands at 5.987 million on the eve of Rosh Hashana, government statistician Yehoshua Yehav said at a news conference yesterday releasing the 49th Statistical Abstract of Israel.

Israel's population is the 95th biggest in the world, ahead of countries such as Finland, Denmark, Norway and Holland.

Births in Israel rose by three percent in 1997 as 124,500 babies were born. Registered Jewish mothers gave birth to 86,100 babies.

Of the 66,000 people who made aliyah in 1997, 58.7% were Jewish, 1.6% were Christian and 39.7% were other. A whopping 54,600 (82%) of the aliyah came from the former Soviet Union.

The nation's population is 79.4% Jewish, 14.8% Moslem, 2.1% Christian, 1.6% Druse and 2.1% other.

Other figures that Yehav disclosed about the population:

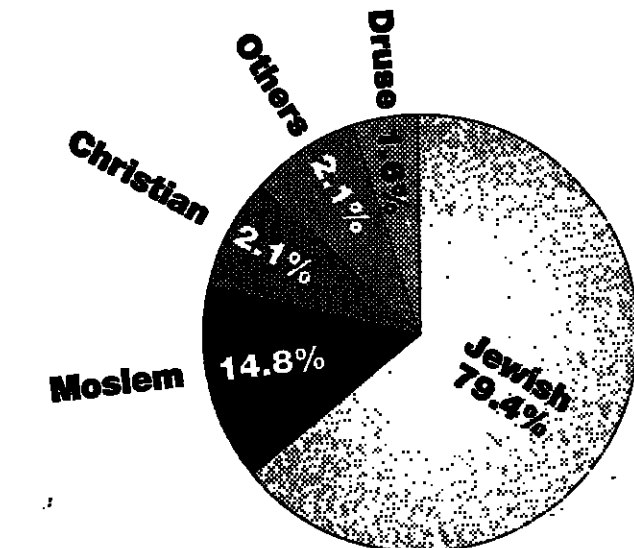
- There were 37,000 marriages last year, 28,200 of which were of Jewish couples.

- The average age of the groom in 1996 was 26 and the bride was 24.

- There were 8,300 divorces in 1997 - 7,300 of which were Jewish couples.

- Life expectancy in 1996 for women was 79.9 and for men 76.3.

- Cancer is the country's biggest killer, responsible for 25% of the



1997 figures; source: Statistical Abstract of Israel, Central Bureau of Statistics

deaths last year, up from nearly 20% in 1970;

- In 1995, of people 34 or under, more men than women were single. For people between the ages of 35-44 more women than men are single;

- 20% of women aged 45-54 were single in 1995, compared to 10% of men;

- In 1997 there were 80,000 single-parent families, and the mother was the only parent in 90% of those families;
- 2.7 million Israelis left the country to vacation for an average of 11 days, and
- 2.3 million people visited the country last year.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Arab student sues Arkia for discrimination

By BAT SHEVA TSUR

A law student from Taibe, near Netanya, is suing Arkia because he says he was humiliated by the airline company's security staff simply because he is an Arab.

Alla Talawi is demanding NIS 50,000 for being insulted and for losing work time. His suit was presented yesterday to the Haifa Magistrate's Court by the Association for Civil Rights in Israel.

The law firm that employed Talawi sent him to represent it at a meeting at a kibbutz in the North, according to the brief ACRI presented. The kibbutz ordered a ticket for Talawi to travel from Tel Aviv's Sde Dov airport to Kiryat Shmona and back.

On arrival at Sde Dov on May 21, 1997, Talawi took his place in the line with the other passengers, who were inspected briefly by security officials. But, the suit says, when they realized that Talawi is an Arab, the security officials "began a long and humiliating process" of examinations. He was asked to appear before three "investigators" who asked him "in a rude and embarrassing fashion" what he did and why he was going to the kibbutz.

"We want to make sure that you did not meet a terrorist and that you are not carrying any terrorist equipment," Talawi says he was told. One security official said specifically that Talawi was suspect because he is an Arab. Talawi said, however, that he was merely carrying a briefcase with papers and that the security check could have been short and courteous.

While Talawi was being questioned, another security official telephoned Talawi's employer to verify his place of work and the reasons for the trip to the kibbutz. The security official asked why Talawi was travelling "unaccompanied."

A similar investigation awaited Talawi on his way back to Tel Aviv. According to the lawsuit, the investigations were in contravention of the Basic Law: Human Dignity and Freedom. The law permits a search only if it is necessary for public safety or if the person is suspected of carrying a weapon or explosives.

NEWS

in brief

High Court puts off ruling on Pinhasi

The High Court of Justice yesterday postponed ruling on a petition calling for the removal of Shas MK Rafael Pinhasi from the chairmanship of the Knesset House Committee. The petition, presented by the Movement for Quality Government, asks that Pinhasi be ordered to step down because he was found guilty of criminal offenses. It notes that the House Committee has to take decisions on numerous ethical questions and argued that it is not fitting for Pinhasi to head it. As a private citizen Pinhasi would be banned from getting a job in the ranks of the police, for example, the petition notes. The seven-member panel said it will hand down its ruling at a later date. *Batsheva Tsur*

Absorption Min. to beef up Police cooperation

Cooperation between the absorption authorities and the police is to be increased, with a hot line set up between the Absorption Ministry and the Internal Affairs Ministry, and special centers established to help police communities with large new immigrant populations, the Absorption Ministry announced yesterday. The plan is the result of a meeting over the weekend between Absorption Ministry Director-General Shlomit Canaan and Internal Security Ministry officials. Internal Security Ministry officials promised to soon recruit immigrants into the police force as a way of helping to improve relations between the police and the immigrant communities. *Aryeh Dean Cohen*

Poll: Public still believes in Jewish unity

A Gallup Israel study commissioned by the Jewish Agency aimed at examining awareness of its activities found that the public still believes in basic issues such as "strengthening the unity of the Jewish people." According to an agency spokesman, other issues valued by those polled were "absorption of new immigrants and helping them integrate into Israeli society," "providing support to weak sectors in Israeli society," and "strengthening Jerusalem as the capital of the Jewish people." The study was conducted by phone among some 500 respondents aged 18 plus. *Aryeh Dean Cohen*

Barak inaugurates new data network

Barak, the international dialing company, launched yesterday what it called "the largest data network in the Middle East," in which it invested \$20 million. The network is connected directly to the Internet infrastructure in the US, the American telecommunications company Sprint (which is a partner in the Barak consortium) and the Global 1 data network. The data band's volume is 20 times that of conventional transmissions, said Barak managing director Avi Patir. The launching ceremony demonstrated the high-quality, high-speed transmission of data files and photographs over the Internet. *Judy Siegel*

A song for Sacha via videoconferencing

Entertainer Shlomo Artzi was due to sing last night to Maccabiah bridge disaster victim Sacha Elterman via a video-conference arranged by Bezeq International. The Australian Jewish teenager, who has undergone numerous operations since the bridge collapse 14 months ago, loves the song "Yareah" ("Moon") and has asked Artzi to sing it to her. The NIS 3,000 broadcast, donated by Bezeq International, is part of the company's launching of ISDN videoconferencing services over the past few weeks. *Judy Siegel*

DUBROVNIK

Continued from Page 1

The reason points to a phenomenon familiar in Central Europe. Before World War II, Dubrovnik had several thousand Jews. Today, it has fewer than 50 - most of whom are in their sixties and seventies. There is no minyan or rabbi in the synagogue. The exception is the High Holy Days, when a rabbi is brought from neighboring Hungary.

Papo, who remained in New York, went further and claimed that intermarriage had ravaged the remains of the Jewish community of Dubrovnik to the point that his successor is not halachically Jewish. He said he fears that, without Jews, Dubrovnik's Torah scrolls would be sold.

Stuck in the middle is Yeshiva University. It was a defendant in the suit brought by the Dubrovnik Jewish community and financed by the government in Zagreb.

The concern of the university, which abides by Halacha, is that

the government would either market the scrolls or use them for a non-sacred purpose, such as an exhibit.

"We are caretakers of these objects," said Rabbi Mitchell Serets, director of Yeshiva University's Sephardic community programs during a conference on Jews in the Adriatic region held in Dubrovnik last month. "We do not own them. We'd be very happy to see these objects in a free and democratic Croatia."

Serets's final words were not coincidental. In a devoutly Catholic country with a long history of dictatorship as a former republic of Yugoslavia, many Jews question whether the government in Zagreb can be counted on to preserve a synagogue without Jews.

Other dying communities sent the contents of their synagogues to Israel.

But Edward Serotta, director of the Vienna-based Central Europe Center for Research and Documentation, said this principle is outdated.

"The issue becomes quite an emotional one," he said. "There are more than a few people who feel that all treasures that are not in the US should be packed and shipped off to Israel. I am not of that opinion."

Serotta said that even tiny Jewish communities deserve to retain their treasures. He pointed to the Dubrovnik archives, which contain invaluable information for scholars studying Jewish life in the Adriatic region during the Middle Ages.

In contrast, 19 synagogues in Italy were transferred to Israel after World War II. He said some of these treasures have been housed in terrible conditions.

Moreover, 1,600 Torah scrolls collected by the Nazis during World War II were later recovered and sent to London.

From there, they were distributed to synagogues around the world. The result, Serotta said, is that many Central European synagogues are left without scrolls.

Jerusalem Deputy Mayor David Cassuto agrees. "Neither Israel nor the Jewish communities in the US

has the permission to help extinguish small communities," he said. "[These] are important for all the world."

The ending for Dubrovnik's Jews, however, appears bitter-sweet. While they recently won the battle in New York State Supreme Court for the return of the scrolls, Burdelez estimates it will take another \$30,000 to bring them back to Croatia.

Now the question is how to ensure that they will be preserved. Dubrovnik was heavily damaged in the Serb shelling of the city in 1992, and international funding is spread thin. Not surprisingly, Croatian officials and Jews are turning to the Jewish community in the US for help.

Serotta said such help would constitute recognition that the Jewish communities in Central and Eastern Europe have a future. "Fifty years after the Holocaust it is clear that these Jewish communities, as tiny as they may be, have come out of the shadows and into daily life," he said.

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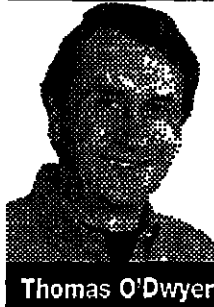
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Inside Little Europe

BUCHAREST — A traveler could develop a phobia from being told that every new city he arrives in is either a Little Paris, or a Venice of the North, or a Florence of the East.

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

Within an hour of arriving, I was told Bucharest is Little Paris, and Romania wants to be the France of the East. "Do you suppose," I asked the guide, "that France might ever want to be the Romania of the West?"

Countries are like people in some ways — one has to wonder about the immaturity of a person who wants to be someone else or, worse, a look-alike. Romania remains worse than immature — it is an abused child or a battered spouse, and the disgusting abuser, Nicolae Ceausescu, continues to wield a malign influence on the national psyche from beyond the grave.

Romanians remind one again and again, without being asked, of their Latin-ness, their Roman heritage, the closeness of their language to Italian. There are more statues in Bucharest of Romulus and Remus being suckled by the she-wolf than there are in Rome itself — even a tractor factory we visited sported a large bronze of the legend in the entrance. God forbid anyone should mistake them for Slavs.

Feeling noir

To arrive in Bucharest on a gloomy day with black clouds low over the city and ceaseless rain-pouring down is to arrive in a film noir, *Blade Runner* perhaps. Almost 10 years after its liberation, Little Paris is a depressing place, and the most depressing part of it is not the decrepit Orwellian buildings, the poverty, the abandoned Stalinist people's housing projects.

It is the sense of denial that hangs over every government official's office, the edgy defensiveness of ordinary citizens about the country's plight.

With one breath countless officials bombarded us with facts and figures to prove what splendid progress Romania is making. Few lifted their eyes to look around them — peeling walls, dank rooms, twilight bulbs pumping out gloom, crumbling roadways, rusting towers of collapsing industries.

Where progress is slow, it is everyone else's fault — Ceausescu's (fair enough, but 10 years have passed), Western investors, who won't spend money; the European Union, for its carping economic analyses; the Americans, who don't know where Romania is on the map; NATO, which won't accept Romania as a member, and so on.

Marble monster

And what of Romania's own failure to dismantle its rust-encrusted state enterprises, clean up corruption and adopt some

legislation that might be considered European? Government ministers openly pour scorn on one another in public interviews, the prime minister scolds them all for incompetence, the president vainly tries to knock heads together.

In one off-guarded moment, a member of parliament and of the Council for Reform, Ioan Muresan, was asked if Romania envied its successful East European neighbors. "Yes," he said, about as wistfully as one can utter one short word.

We were sat in a small corner of a vast room in the monstrosity that is the Bucharest People's Palace. Ceausescu built a monument to his ego that numbs the senses in this day and age. He flattened ancient historical buildings and ejected the poor from their homes in the area to carve out the landscape.

Even Nero might balk at assigning 60 architects and 20,000 workers to build a 330,000 sq.m. palace with 1,000 huge rooms that consumed one million cubic meters of the country's marble and 100,000 cubic meters of hand-carved wood.

The main hall alone is 2,000 sq.m. of polished marble and hand-woven carpet. Velvet curtains, five-meters long and braided in gold, hang from massive windows everywhere. They were sewn by the nuns of monasteries across Romania — for no payment. Of course not — it was God's work. Dracula (Vlad the Impaler) was by no means the worst blood-sucker Romania has spawned.

Lost generations

While the palace is an awesome sight in dubious taste, and now houses the Parliament, we asked the guide how she could show it to foreign tourists and not feel ashamed of how the country had been plundered for the ego of this beast of Bucharest.

Again we came across that prickly Romanian defensiveness — it is a beautiful building, it is in the *Guinness Book of Records*, it is so big the guide herself has not yet seen it all. "It is part of our heritage now, whatever its origin. We should be proud of it."

In one Persian-carpeted room, now partitioned off into office cubicles for Cabinet administrative staff, I asked a middle-aged secretary how she felt about working in the world's most expensive political mausoleum. (The building is valued at \$5 billion.)

She looked out at the vast copy of the Champs Elysee that stretches from the palace to the Bucharest skyline and shuddered. "You are standing in what cost all of us our lost childhood and our youth," she said.

It is still costing her generation.

Bavaria gives Kohl a slight boost

Many analysts doubt that the victory of the chancellor's conservative allies in one of Germany's wealthiest states indicates that the election tide is turning

By ROBERT MAHONEY

BONN — Helmut Kohl took comfort from the victory of his conservative allies in Bavaria on Sunday but political analysts and pollsters doubted the German Chancellor could catch front-runner Gerhard Schröder.

TV exit polls said the Christian Social Union won 52.6 percent of the vote in Bavaria which it has ruled with an absolute majority for 36 years.

Kohl's Christian Democrats were quick to hail the outcome as a turning point in their fortunes for the federal election on September 27.

Kohl, in office for 16 years, has failed to close a five-point opinion poll gap on Schröder and his center-left Social Democratic Party. Unemployment has made him deeply unpopular in large areas of the former Communist east where he was feted as a hero after unification in 1990.

CDU officials said the performance of their sister party in Bavaria showed the tide was turning, although Kohl was a little more cautious.

"I think it's not just possible, but probable that we shall be ahead of the Social Democrats on the evening of the federal election," Kohl told reporters.

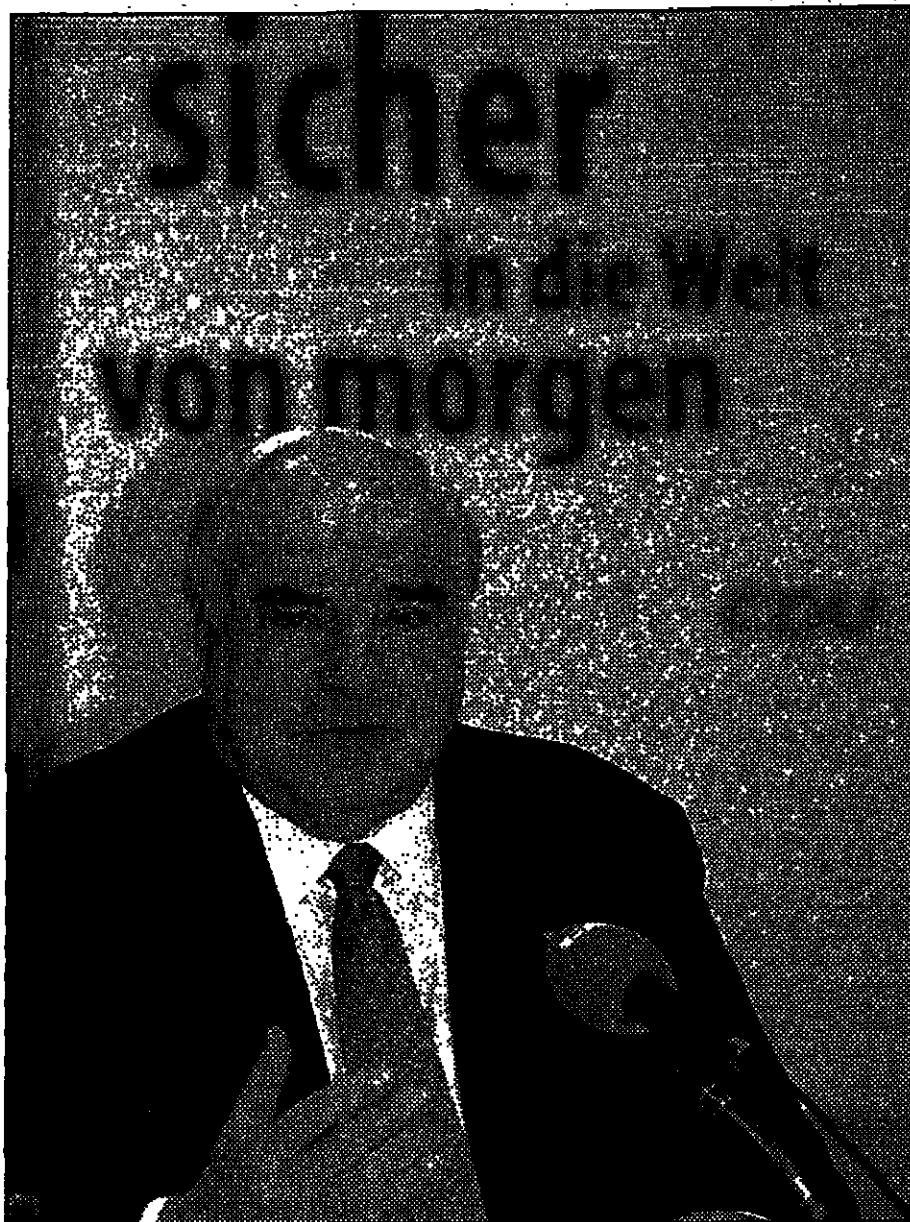
ANALYSTS were even more cautious. Many said Bavaria was no test of the national mood.

"There is no evidence of a turnaround for the conservatives. Kohl and Schröder are still in the same position they were before-hand," said Klaus Bresser, editor-in-chief of Germany's ZDF television channel.

Analysts said Bavaria was one of the most staunchly independent of Germany's 16 states with its own strong political and cultural identity.

"It didn't have anything to do with the federal race but it will be interpreted from every angle in that light," said Joachim Raschke, a political scientist at Hamburg University.

"The cultural attachment to Bavaria is enormous in this state of the crucifix in the classroom, and lederhosen," he said, refer-



Kohl standing yesterday in front of a banner which reads 'Safely into tomorrow's world': 'I think it's not just possible, but probable that we shall be ahead of the Social Democrats on the evening of the federal election.'

ring to Bavarians' Roman Catholic conservatism.

"Voters identify the CSU with the state. The SPD has been in the opposition here for 40 years. It's a hopeless case," Raschke said.

Schröder said he was disappointed by the result although he had expected it. He said Bavarians had voted for their premier, Edmund Stoiber, not for Kohl.

"In 14 days it will be quite different," Schröder told reporters in his home state of Lower Saxony.

Then Germany's 60 million voters would decide whether or not they wanted a "washed-up chancellor who is stuck in the past," Schröder said.

SCHRÖDER, 54, has tried to cultivate a modern image, in contrast to the 68-year-old Kohl, who has campaigned on his record as the West's longest-serving leader.

Schröder has styled himself as the voice of the "new center" of German politics and has attacked Kohl for his record on unemployment.

But Bavaria is one of Germany's wealthiest states with joblessness some four points below the national average of 11 percent.

"[The result] has got a lot to do with local satisfaction with the state government," said Richard Hilmer of the Dimap polling institute.

Bavarians were well aware of their relative prosperity and gave Stoiber the credit for it, Hilmer said.

Heinrich Oberreuter, political scientist at Passau University in Bavaria, said the CDU could benefit from the CSU result.

"It can have an effect [nationally], especially in sending out a signal to undecided voters," he said. Pollsters say between 20% and 30% of voters are still undecided.

"The tailwind Schröder was hoping for didn't materialize. It was not the hoped-for 'beginning for the change' in Bonn," Bresser said.

"But it would also be an exaggeration to call this result the rescuing of the CDU. It is enough to raise some hopes in the CDU ranks, but it was not the hoped-for turnaround."

Casanova still seductive after 200 years

By MERISSA MARR

VENICE — Compared to modern-day lotharios, it is rather surprising to discover that Casanova's conquests numbered a mere 132 during his 73 years.

Several US basketball stars have boasted of seductions running into the thousands while a Venetian hotel porter recently made headlines when he claimed to have slept with 8,000 women.

And yet 200 years after his death, Giacomo Casanova is still remembered as one of the all-time great lovers, seducing women from aristocrats to prostitutes, married matrons to virtuous virgins.

"Casanova had imagination as a lover, he was a complex and rich character and that's why we still remember him," said Giandomenico Romanelli, director of museums in Casanova's birthplace, Venice.

Priest, spy, gambler, magician, violinist and philosopher, Venice exposes the eclectic character of

Casanova in a lavish exhibition to mark his death in 1798.

Portraits of lovers and friends, including the French writer Voltaire and Empress Catherine II of Russia, costumes sparkling with jewels and personal letters paint a picture of a man who was more than just a nomadic lover roaming the bedrooms of 18th century Europe.

CASANOVA was not a gentleman by birth. He was born the son of two travelling actors in 1725, who considered him a hopeless case as a child and dumped him with his grandmother.

When he later showed sparks of brilliance, he was sent off for a career in the church, which he abruptly abandoned after being caught in the throes of love with his patron's mistress.

Subsequent pastimes included soldiering and translating Latin classics — but whatever he did he managed to charm the royal and rich, men and women alike with his intellect and ability to expound

on any subject.

"Sufficiently wealthy, endowed by nature with a striking appearance, a confirmed gambler, a spendthrift, a great talker, always forthright and not modest, intrepid and running after pretty women," Casanova described himself in his memoirs.

He sought pleasure wherever he travelled but his greatest source was women after being seduced at the age of 11.

"I loved women to the point of madness," Casanova wrote.

Casanova never married but fathered many children after a string of bizarre relationships which included a threesome with two sisters, a cross-dresser who pretended to be a castrato and a libertine nun.

Despite his attempts at contraception which included an eight-inch condom and carrying a small ball which he offered his lovers to use to avoid pregnancy, Casanova suffered eight bouts of venereal disease but was never daunted, treating himself with a mercury-based concoction.

BUT his amorous adventures beg the question, why?

In an forthcoming biography, psychologist Lydia Flem suggests he embarked on a pursuit of pleasure because of the absence of his mother whom he revered.

"He had an irrepressible need to know he was loved, appreciated, esteemed, admired, respected," Flem said.

Other psychologists suggest he could have been a closet homosexual and hid behind an overly masculine exterior.

The Italian film director Federico Fellini portrays the Latin lover as a dandyish, effeminate lover in his film *Casanova*.

But while many women see Casanova as a flirtatious lover who cared little for his victims, Flem believes he was in fact a feminist. "There is not a trace of misogyny in Casanova. Women are his masters. Women call the tune," Flem said. "His pleasure lay in the pleasure of others."

From his reams of love letters it is clear to see that Casanova was not

just looking for a one-night stand.

Indeed, he broke with the prejudices of the time by concealing that the sexes were equal and that women probably enjoy greater sexual pleasure, but he never wanted to be one.

"After all this inquiry, I ask myself if I would want to be reborn as a woman and, apart from curiosity, I say no. I have enough other pleasure as a man," he said in his memoirs.

His seductive career came to an end when, at 60, worn out, toothless and penniless from travelling around Europe, he accepted the patronage of a count in Bohemia and settled down to relive his exploits through his memoirs.

"For eight years already my potency had been diminishing little by little... Try as I might, women no longer tended to fall in love with me... I felt I was a completely different person," Casanova recounted.

"The World of Giacomo Casanova" exhibition in Venice runs until January 10. (Reuters)

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صكا من الراجل

Albania protesters seize tanks

By BENET KOLEKA

TIRANA (Reuters) — Anti-government protesters stormed public buildings and commandeered tanks in Tirana yesterday in Albania's worst violence for over a year.

Prime Minister Fatos Nano, in hiding, said a coup was under way. Several people were wounded in exchanges of gunfire between guards at Nano's office and mourners attending the funeral of a Democratic politician, whose murder at the weekend sparked violence and opposition demands for the prime minister to quit.

Armed gangs roamed the center of Tirana in cars, gunfire and explosions were heard throughout the city and opposition supporters seized the state television and radio station.

Opposition Democratic Party leader Sali Berisha, blaming Nano for the murder on Saturday of colleague Azem Hajdari and his bodyguard, demanded the resignation of Nano's five-party coalition.

Nano's spokesman said the prime minister was safe at an undisclosed location but unable to carry out his duties.

"He is not in his office for reasons that are known," spokesman Ben Blushi told Reuters. "He considers this a coup d'etat. He is not going to resign because this is a coup d'etat."

Blushi said Nano had been in contact with foreign leaders and had told them the situation in Albania was intolerable.

"No government can administer the country in these conditions," the spokesman added. "I do not exclude interventions like last year."

In 1997, an Italian-led multinational force helped to restore calm to Albania after months of anarchy caused by the collapse of fraudulent investment schemes. Nano ousted



Supporters of Albanian opposition leader Sali Berisha's Democratic Party seize a tank guarding the government building in the capital Tirana yesterday.

Berisha in elections in July last year. Berisha appealed to Albanians to stay calm.

"I call on all Albanians in these extremely difficult moments to restrain themselves and trust in a political solution of the crisis," he said on state-owned television.

"We ask Prime Minister Fatos

Nano to resign and create the possibility for an interim government, for a political solution."

State television said opposition parties had asked President Rexhep Meidani to head an interim government while a new administration was formed.

NATO expressed its concern

over renewed violence in Europe's poorest country and appealed for the utmost restraint.

The alliance's Secretary-General Javier Solana called on all sides to seek a return to "a peaceful and stable environment throughout the whole country."

Neighboring Greece warned that

unless calm returned, efforts to rebuild the impoverished Balkan nation could be ruined.

"The year-long efforts for restoring a democracy and setting up conditions for stability will be lost if all sides in the political spectrum don't show logic and restraint," a foreign ministry statement said.

US Navy ship to retrieve wreckage of Swissair plane

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia (AP) — The tangled, twisted wreck of Swissair Flight 111 is about to rise from its ocean grave off Nova Scotia.

U.S.S. Grapple, a U.S. Navy salvage ship, was preparing yesterday to begin lifting large chunks of the demolished jetliner off the ocean floor near Peggy's Cove.

"We're looking at commencing the salvage operation," Lieut. Mike Oliveira, spokesman for the Virginia-based ship, said Sunday.

The Grapple, a vessel capable of winching 300-ton pieces to the surface, was moored over the crash site, preparing for a lift that could help investigators determine why the jet crashed while trying to make it to Halifax for an emergency landing.

The 76-meter ship's primary targets are five sections of fuselage sitting in about 60 meters of water 10 kilometers from shore.

"Obviously, our goal is to bring it up as intact as possible," said Oliveira, adding the lift would begin as soon as Canadian authorities give their approval. The lifting will begin as soon as bodies and body parts are recovered from each section.

In a Montreal church on Sunday, 250 mourners from Canada, Brazil, Switzerland and the U.S. remem-

bered Yves de Roussan as a man who made his mark helping others.

"He always defended people who couldn't defend themselves," Hugue de Roussan said of his 41-year-old brother who as a UNICEF official fought for children's rights around the world.

De Roussan grew up with two brothers and a sister in St. Laurent, Quebec, and then in suburban Outremont with his father, from France, and his mother, from Poland.

Swissair confirmed reports Sunday that the plane was carrying a locked box possibly containing millions of dollars in currency and gold. The airline, which frequently transports money in and out of Geneva, would not give a dollar figure or say to whom it belonged or where it was going.

RCMP spokesman Wayne Noonan refused to say how much money was involved but said the bills were in a safe in the cargo hold.

"The money was secured in a fire- and shock-proof container and wrapped in such a manner that it would not [have] floated even if the box busted open," he said.

The Boeing MD-11 widebody plowed into the sea off Peggy's Cove on September 2, killing all 229 passengers and crew on board.

Iran: Taleban crisis could cause regional conflict

By TOM COHEN

TEHERAN (Reuters) — Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei warned the Afghan Taleban and Pakistan yesterday that their actions in Afghanistan could provoke a major regional conflict, Tehran radio reported.

"I have... so far prevented the

lighting of a fire in this region, which would be hard to extinguish. But all should know that a very great and wide danger is quite near," Khamenei said in a statement read on the radio.

He said this could only be prevented by stopping the actions of the fundamentalist Islamic Taleban and the Pakistani army in Afghanistan.

Khamenei, who is also Iran's commander-in-chief, said such a danger could "only be prevented by forcing Pakistan's army to stop intervening in Afghanistan and obliging the leaders of the Taleban group to submit to logic, to abandon actions which lead to a catastrophe and to make up for their past errors."

Bosnia counts the votes

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Elections hailed as the most successful since Bosnia's war ended three years ago showed the former Yugoslav republic has matured politically, international officials say.

The two days of voting that ended Sunday were marred by polling stations that failed to open the first day and missing voter registration lists.

But election organizers and Western powers overseeing Bosnia said the problems were minor and proclaimed the voting a success. Turnout was 78 percent, election organizers said yesterday. First results are expected today.

"It's a great day for democracy," said Carlos Westendorp, the European high representative in Bosnia. "It proves the maturity of the Bosnian people." Robert Barry, the official in charge of organizing the vote, called it "the most successful elections held here" since fighting halted under the Western-brokered Dayton peace plan in 1995.

Fears of violence, as occurred in the previous national election in 1996 and local voting last year, proved unfounded.

In Banja Luka in the Bosnian Serb republic, police detained a Sarajevo-based television crew for two hours, allegedly for filming the

office of republic President Biljana Plavsic without permission. Barry called the detention outrageous and said it would be investigated as a violation of election rules.

Otherwise, calm prevailed for the election considered crucial to the future of the peace accord.

"Very clearly these elections were free and fair," said Robert Gelbard, President Bill Clinton's representative in the Balkans. Citing the problems involving the voters' list, which also resulted in some voters going to the wrong polling stations, Gelbard said: "No election process is perfect."

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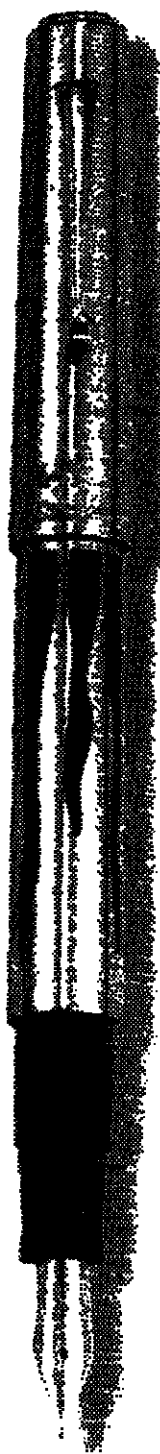
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Segregationist figure George Wallace, 79, dies

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — George Corley Wallace, the onetime firebrand segregationist who dominated Alabama politics for almost two decades and commanded a front-stage position during the nation's tumultuous civil rights struggles, died Sunday of respiratory and cardiac arrest. He was 79.

Wallace, a former four-term Democratic governor, rose to power with a blend of virulent racism and pugnacious opposition to big government and liberal social philosophies.

He became a political hero to millions of working-class white Southern voters and gained an impressive national following during his four abortive campaigns for the White House as the "angry man's candidate."

He moderated his hard-right stance later in his political career and publicly recanted his segregationist past.

But the onetime Golden Gloves boxing champion never shook off the image of jut-jawed defiance to racial change that he created in the early 1960s, with his cry of "segregation forever" in his first inaugural address and with his controversial "stand in the schoolhouse door" to block the integration of the University of Alabama.

Since 1972, when a would-be assassin's bullets cut short the

most promising of his presidential campaigns and left him paralyzed from the waist down, Wallace had been confined to a wheelchair and suffered from steadily declining health.

In 1986, fighting almost constant pain and depression along with increasing deafness, he rejected a bid for an unprecedented fifth term as governor and retired from active political life.

Wallace entered Jackson Hospital in Montgomery on Thursday, suffering from breathing problems and septic shock caused by a severe bacterial infection. The hospital reported that Wallace "gave up his valiant battle with life at 9:45 p.m."

Wallace's son, George Wallace Jr., and one of his daughters, Peggy Wallace Kennedy, were at his side when he died. He is also survived by two other daughters, Bobbie Joe and Janie Lee.

WALLACE, who began his political career as a state representative from rural southeastern Alabama, was a complex and charismatic figure who left behind a mixed political legacy.

Wallace dominated Alabama politics as no one had before him in this century, winning four-year terms as governor in 1962, 1970, 1974 and 1982. He also controlled

the governor's mansion during the administration of his first wife, Lurleen, who was elected as Alabama's only woman governor in 1966 but who died in office of cancer two years later.

Over much of the same period, the feisty, outspoken Wallace also made four unsuccessful runs for the presidency: as a Democrat in 1964, 1972 and 1976, and as a third-party candidate representing the American Independent Party in 1968.

His third-party presidential campaign was the most successful one in American history in more than half a century, with Wallace garnering nearly 10 million votes, or about 13 percent of the total, and carrying five states, all in the South.

In 1972, Wallace was a contender for the Democratic Party's nomination before Arthur Bremer shot him during a May campaign appearance at a shopping center in Laurel, Md.

Wallace carried the Maryland and Michigan primaries while lying near death in the hospital, but his career as a presidential aspirant was effectively ended.

In 1976, when he launched his final presidential bid, he was woefully outdistanced by another Southerner, former Georgia governor Jimmy Carter, who went on to



Wallace never shook off the image of jut-jawed defiance to racial change that he created in the early 1960s, when he cried: "Segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever!" (AP)

capture the White House.

By the end of his final term as governor in 1986, Wallace's political appeal in Alabama appeared to

be waning, largely because of fears about his health.

"ALABAMA was on a more progressive road than most people think in the late 1940s and '50s because of the influence of Gov. Jim Folsom. But when Wallace came along and embraced racism and used it as a political tool, it just twisted this state in a whole different direction," said Wayne Greenhaw of Montgomery, author of *Watch Out for George Wallace*.

When Wallace himself was asked how history will record him, he told *The Los Angeles Times* in 1979: "I would say in contemporary history, I'd like to be remembered as one of those who destroyed the mythology that somebody from a region of the country couldn't run in other regions because there was a regional bias and prejudice."

"And in the next 50, 60, 70 years, when they write about third parties, they will write that we had the most successful, as of this date, third-party movement in the country."

He maintained that view until his death, seeing himself as a precursor to Jimmy Carter and to the dramatic shift to a conservative national political agenda with the election of Republican Ronald

Reagan in 1980.

In his later years, Wallace also asserted that he had not been "an enemy of blacks" in the 1960s and '70s but "the enemy of the federal government."

"It's very unfortunate that it involved race when we raised those issues," he explained. "I was never saying anything that reflected on black people, and I'm sorry it was taken that way."

But Dan T. Carter, an Emory University history professor and Wallace biographer, says that it is difficult to be sympathetic with Wallace on that score because the former governor "used the power of the state to maim, manipulate and hurt people."

He first ran for governor in 1958 as a liberal candidate, with the endorsement of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and Alabama's Jewish community. But he suffered a jolting defeat at the hands of John Patterson, an avowed white racist.

But four years later, he was elected to his first term as governor.

In his inaugural address, on the same spot where Jefferson Davis was sworn in as president of the Confederacy a century before, Wallace sounded the clarion call of the segregationist South: "I draw the line in the dust and

toss the gauntlet before the feet of tyranny. And I say, segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever!"

He attempted to carry out the pledge with his "stand at the schoolhouse door" at the University of Alabama later that year to block the enrollment of two black students. But federal troops eventually prevailed and the students were admitted.

Two years later, he ordered state troopers to block the Selma-to-Montgomery march by voting rights activists, a confrontation that ended in a bloody melee.

In 1966, when his first term was soon to end, Wallace tried to persuade the Legislature to amend the Constitution so that he could succeed himself. Failing that, he convinced his wife, Lurleen, to run for governor as a surrogate for him. She won re-election.

She died in May, 1968 and was succeeded as governor by lieutenant governor Albert P. Brewer, from whom Wallace reclaimed the governorship in 1970.

In 1971, two weeks before his second inauguration as governor, Wallace married his second wife, Cornelia Swilley. They were divorced in 1978.

In 1981, he married his third wife, Lisa Taylor. (Los Angeles Times)

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5th Emmy in a row for 'Frasier'

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By LYNN ELBER

NBC's *Frasier* won a record fifth consecutive award as best comedy series and stars Kelsey Grammer and David Hyde Pierce took home acting trophies at the 50th Annual Primetime Emmy Awards.

And life got even better for Helen Hunt, who won best actress honors for her role as Jamie Buchanan on NBC's *Mad About You*, six months after winning an Oscar for *As Good As It Gets*.

The Practice, a taut legal series that struggled in the ratings for ABC, was honored as best drama.

Frasier, which spun its title character off the series *Cheers*, now has 19 Emmys to its credit.

"I'm very sort of gloating and silly about it," said Grammer, who won his third Emmy as best lead actor in a comedy series for his portrayal of a smooth-talking radio therapist with a rocky personal life.

Hunt added her third consecutive Emmy to add to her crowded trophy case. "I'm the president of 'I was not expecting this,'" she said.

Pierce was named best supporting actor in a comedy series for his role as high-strung, highbrow Dr. Niles Crane in *Frasier*.

Awards for outstanding lead performances in drama series went to Christine Lahti of *Chicago Hope* and Andre Braugher of *Homicide: Life on the Street*.

"OK, you can unlock the bathroom now," joked Lahti, referring to her failure to promptly come to the stage of the Golden Globes for a matching award because she had gone to the ladies room.

The epic *From the Earth to the Moon*, produced by actor Tom Hanks, was named outstanding miniseries. HBO's 12-part story was the most-nominated entry overall with 17 bids.

NBC was the top winner with 18 Emmys, followed by ABC with 16 and HBO with 14. The totals include trophies awarded previous-

ly in the creative arts categories.

Camryn Manheim, who plays a tough attorney on *The Practice*, accepted the trophy for best supporting actress in a drama series.

"This is for all the fat girls," said the heavyset actress, who held up a small autograph book and invited all the stars on hand to sign it.

Gordon Clapp, who plays good-hearted Detective Greg Medavoy on *NYPD Blue*, was honored as best supporting actor in a drama series.

"Somebody asked me what my favorite television moment was ... and I think it just changed," Clapp said as he picked up his trophy.

In the competitive late-night arena, David Letterman triumphed over Jay Leno as *Late Show With David Letterman* was named best variety, music or comedy series. It was the second victory for the CBS show, which also won in 1994.

Lisa Kudrow, who plays the ditzy Phoebe in NBC's *Friends*, won best supporting actress in a comedy series.

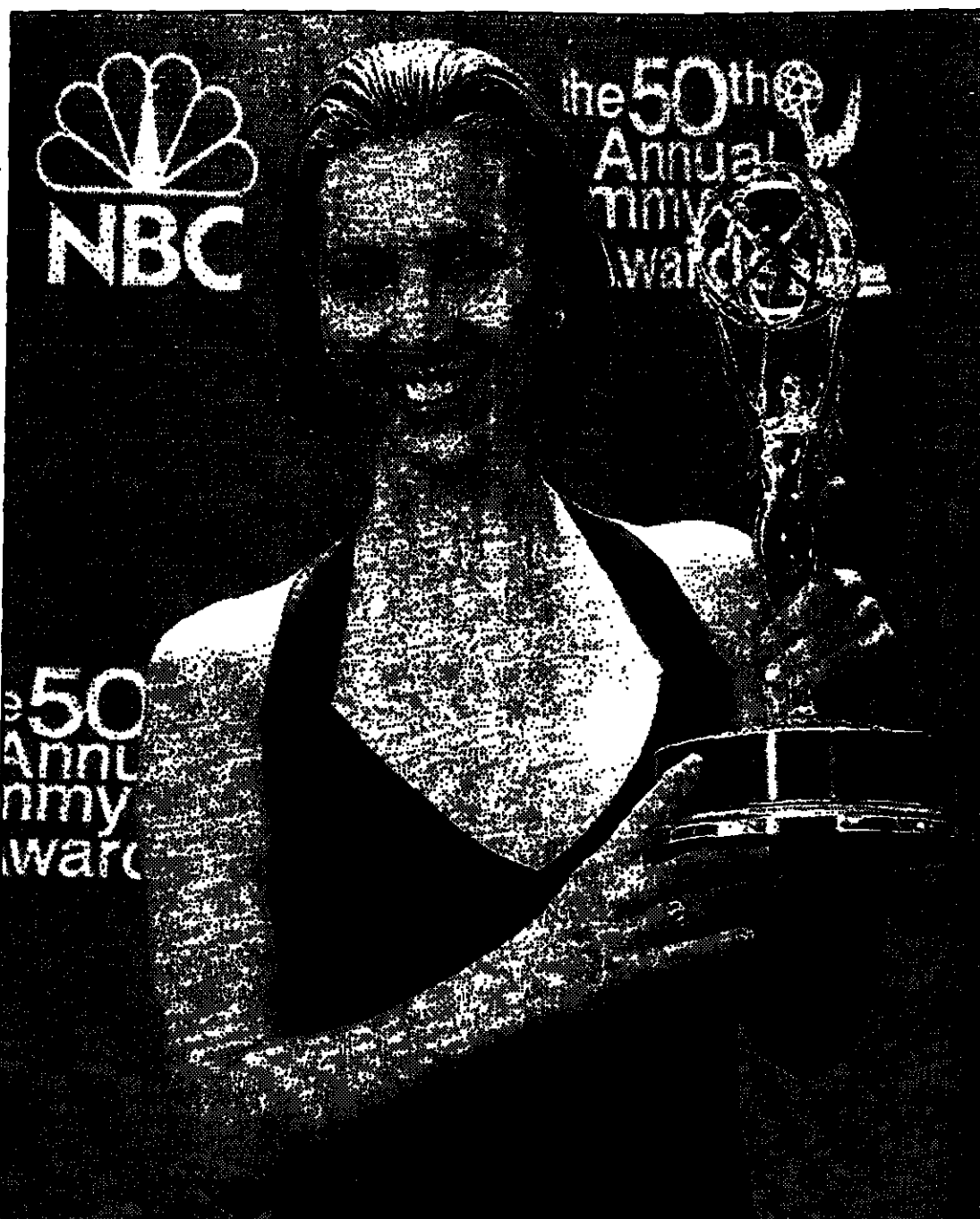
Comedian Garry Shandling won his first Emmy, as a writer for *The Larry Sanders Show*. Director Todd Holland also won an Emmy for his work on the critically praised show.

Emmys in 27 categories were presented by the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences in an expanded, four-hour anniversary show at the Shrine Auditorium in downtown Los Angeles.

The ceremony acknowledged TV's history with salutes to figures both major and minor.

Among those taking bows were the host of *Mike Stokey's Pantomime Quiz*, which received the first Emmy 50 years ago, and comedy titans Bob Hope, Milton Berle and Sid Caesar. A frail Hope was seated as the trio received a long standing ovation.

In the categories for miniseries or movies, the TNT movie *George Wallace* won trophies for lead actor Gary Sinise, supporting actress Mare Winningham and director John Frankenheimer. (AP)



Lisa Kudrow, who plays the ditzy Phoebe in 'Friends,' won best supporting actress in a comedy series.

By BARRY DAVIS

Anyone who has been tempted to join a pseudo-religious sect might be dissuaded by the example of Heaven's Gate.

Channel 1's *The Cult* (tonight, 9:35) tells the story of the mass suicide pact carried out by the 39 members of Heaven's Gate at a San Diego house last year. The cult was founded in the 1970s by former music teacher Marshall Applewhite and nurse Bonnie Nettles (who curiously adopted pseudonyms with distinctly musical notational connotations: Do and Tee respectively).

Although the BBC production purports to investigate the reasons why anyone would choose to join a cult, and eventually put an end to their own life, the sum of the researchers' findings is presented fairly early on in the documentary, then repeated in various forms over the following 50 minutes.

The documentary opens with an eerie tour through the empty San Diego house where the cult members killed themselves.

Why did they do it? Prior to carrying out their final mortal act, they videotaped themselves calmly explaining their motives. It seems that Applewhite had succeeded in inculcating his disciples with the belief that they were about to move on to a better life - to "evacuate" to "the level above human."

The cult leader appears, for the most part, to be rational and tries to share his ebullience at the imminence of his release with the viewer. "We're so excited, we don't know what to do," says Applewhite.

Although the cult leader never talks directly about God, religious

themes pop up throughout the documentary. When one former member is asked whether he thought the cult leader was insane, he retorts unequivocally: "Some people thought Jesus was crazy." The same survivor actually rationalizes the suicide pact by stating that people die for their country, and for a whole host of other reasons: "and dying for your beliefs is a valid reason to die."

It is, indeed, a measure of Applewhite's mesmerizing control of his charges - and to some extent even over those who chose to leave the cult - that only one former member openly challenges his tenets.

The documentary makers don't shy away from banal details. For example a waiter at the restaurant where the group ate their "last supper," just two days before the suicides began, provides us with precise details of the menu chosen by the diners.

And *Star Trek* fans will, no doubt, be gratified by Applewhite's allusion to the legendary sci-fi series. Shortly before "the evacuation" takes place Applewhite videos the members in special uniforms with patches bearing the legend: "Heaven's Gate Away Team." One can almost hear Captain Kirk intone "energize" as the cult members are beamed up to the next level of existence.

But, as with most things, the importance one attaches to an event is very much a matter of perspective - even among the grieving families of the cult members. While Nancy Brown seems to be almost at one with her son's decision to die with the cult, Gail's parents angrily call the Heaven's Gate act "one suicide and 38 murders."

Courtney Love - rock's ace in the 'Hole'



By David Brinn

Hole's Courtney Love sheds personas like some people change clothes.

From lipstick-smeared grunge

CELEBRITY SKIN
(Hed Ariz)

queen to sleek, Cosmo-girl Hollywood starlet, Love's public antics and outspoken statements on fame and pop culture have made her a tabloid favorite, but have often over-

shadowed her music. Which is a shame.

Because *Celebrity Skin*, the first disc by Hole in over four years, is ragged, passionate, and exhilarating rock 'n' roll. Any debate over whether Love owed her musical career to the helping hand of her late husband Kurt Cobain - who became the '90s most celebrated rock casualty - can be put to rest.

Whereas Cobain's ghost haunted 1994's *Live Through This* and made it such a harrowing listening experience, *Celebrity Skin*, whose title is a playful nod to the limelight Love constantly finds herself in, breaks through the darkness to reveal a sunny pop heart.

Assisted on a number of songs by the co-songwriting prowess of Smashing Pumpkins' frontman Billy Corgan, Love and her able bandmates tone down the punk gruffness and put on a shimmering rock history lesson where '60s girl groups and Joan Jett guitar roar mingle with Blondie sass, side by side.

The title track, which the group energetically performed last week on the MTV Music

Video Awards show, typifies the group's charms, with its power-riffing crunch offset by a sweet bridge and some of Love's most humorous and biting lyrics.

No other song this year will match the couplet "When I wake up, in my makeup," which perfectly captures her down-to-earth personality. Simultaneously articulate and bratty, she hearkens back to the golden era of rock stardom.

Detractors may accuse Love of dressing down, after aspiring to a Hollywood lifestyle following her appearance last year in *The People vs. Larry Flynt*.

But it doesn't really matter whether she's just copping a rock 'n' roll attitude on these 12 tracks.

Her vocals sound so earthy and unaffected, and the band meshes so well together to create a ragged but intimate style, that any accusations fly right out the door.

Just when rock needed it the most, Courtney Love has returned with her heart on her sleeveless tank top to claim her place as a bona-fide, larger-than-life rock star.

Local fusion mesmerizes Tel Aviv

By Michael Aizenstadt



more than a few very exciting ensembles and is behind one of

SHESHBESH
Elmav Center, Tel Aviv
September 18

today's most intriguing, beguiling and mesmerizing local groups.

Sheshbesh is a quartet featuring Israel Philharmonic Orchestra flutist Yossi Arheim, percussionist Chen Zimbalista, who beats on almost any instrument, double-bass player Amir Massarik and oud virtuoso Yair Dalal. Each of these four musicians is one of the best in his field.

When they play together - whether it is a jazz-inspired opus by Albert Piamonta, an Iraqi piece, or new works by local composers such as Benjamin Yusupov or Peretz Eliahu, the end result is riveting. Zimbalista strokes his percussion

instruments with love and panache, Dalal plays beguiling melodies on his oud, Arheim draws tranquilizing sounds from his flute - especially the alto - and Massarik ties up all loose ends through the bass.

The result is a very special Israeli fusion of music that is quite universal. Sheshbesh is proof that music remains a very exciting open book with many chapters left to be filled.

The only criticism one might have is that Sheshbesh's music often sounds repetitious.

THERE were many ups and more than a few downs in the first Jerusalem International Chamber Music Festival, especially in the opening half of Friday's afternoon concert.

Beethoven's Trio Op. 37 for piano, flute and bassoon transformed the Khan Theater in

Jerusalem into the most perfect concert hall in the world - no acoustic problems, no criticism.

JERUSALEM
INTERNATIONAL
CHAMBER MUSIC
FESTIVAL
Khan Theater, Jerusalem
September 11

Flutist Emmanuel Pahud, bassoonist Daniele Damiano and pianist Elena Bashkistrova simply wove magic into this opus.

Rarely have we heard wind players like these two young principals of the Berlin Philharmonic. Damiano, one of the finest bassoonists in the world, renders a very warm and humane sound, while Pahud is a sensational flutist

with a fluent, transcendental sound. Their performance with Bashkistrova was one of the most exciting performances ever heard in this part of the world.

But - the local Huberman Quartet's rendering of the Brahms clarinet quintet with Wenzel Fuchs was more than disappointing. In fact, the Huberman Quartet's performance was one of the event's weakest links. Granted, the quartet grew better and more assured as the festival progressed. But this young quartet needs a lot of improvement if it seeks international fame.

Its individual members must be stripped of their soloist approach to music before they can become a real ensemble. At the moment they are rather disappointing, and every time they appeared on stage during the festival the overall level dropped.

Drama bridges Jewish-Arab divide

Theater Roundup



By Naomi Doudai

More in the nature of appreciation than of cold, critical appraisal, this review of *The Draw* is as much a demonstration of remarkable social achievement as it is of the dramat-

THE DRAW

(Tel Aviv)

ic quality of this colorful show. Peace Child Israel ("Yaldei Hashalom") is the brainchild of Yael Drouyanoff, a veteran Habimah actress who, fired by the urgent need to combat the racist tendencies she saw in Israeli society, founded this non-political body as a means of generating dialogue between Arab and Jewish youngsters. In the last 10 years it has grown into a network of 22

workshops encompassing Jewish and Arab towns from Karmiel in the north to Rahat in the south.

The group's goal is to use theater to promote tolerance, pluralism, mutual understanding and peaceful coexistence among children of diverse religious and ethnic backgrounds.

"The idea," says Drouyanoff, "was to bring young people together, teach them to speak to each other on equal terms in constructive meetings that use theater games and drama performances as a means of dialogue and a bridge to cross-cultural relations."

The Draw is a spectacular example of the group's work. A collage of monologues, vignettes, choral cabaret and socio-political avowals are vividly expressed in both Arabic and Hebrew through letters, prayers, poetry and song. All were improvisations written by the participants to be tailored and staged by Peace Child's drama assistants. As striking as the quality of performance (most of these kids are theater naturals) is the intellectual daring and moral courage reflected in the spoken text.

The issues that plague the children in their respective communities, the mutual fears and phobias, are all addressed without inhibition. Terrorist attacks, out-of-line romantic attachments, security searches and military action are

among the familiar situations that are dramatized with challenging audacity.

Of no less interest and importance is the reaction of the mixed Arab-Jewish audience of adults and children to this stimulating material. What was evident on this

occasion from the audience's very vocal response was a tumult of awe, embarrassment and confusion. On other occasions, however, moments after a terrorist attack on a Tel Aviv cafe, Drouyanoff insists the audience has been affected to the point of tears.

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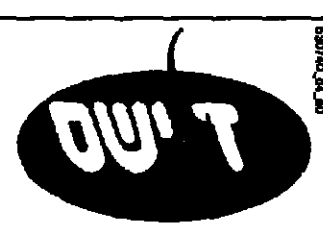
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Budgetary sleight of hand

"There is no hocus-pocus here," pronounced Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu after the cabinet overwhelmingly approved the budget on Sunday. "We fooled most of the ministers fair and square," he should have added.

The ministers were collectively promised NIS 2.2 billion in increases, yet almost no minister admitted to having his or her budget cut, and the budget framework, like a magician's assistant, saved in two, remained miraculously intact.

Unfortunately, the economy is not impressed by political sleight of hand. Last week Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel told the cabinet that he applauded its commitment to staying within the budget target (defined by a 2 percent of GDP ceiling on the budget deficit) and its desire to encourage growth through investment in infrastructure. But Frenkel also told the cabinet the bad news: the money has to come from somewhere, and that somewhere should be transfer payments - direct payments to individuals - that do not contribute to economic growth.

The graphs Frenkel presented to the cabinet comparing public sector spending priorities in 1990 and 1997 told an unmistakable story. In those seven years, direct transfer payments grew by over 60 percent in real terms - much more than any other budget item except education. This growth was greater even than the growth in the economy, so that transfer payments also grew as a percentage of the GDP.

The only budget that shrank substantially over this period was defense - it was frozen in real terms, but its percentage of GDP dropped from 13 percent in 1990 to 9 percent in 1997. Frenkel's picture, therefore, was this: the drop in defense spending financed a small increase in the education budget and a large jump in transfer payments.

While Netanyahu and his ministers can congratulate themselves on protecting their budgets and the budget framework as a whole, at the end of the day there is only one formula to produce the economic growth that all claim is their objective: shrinking the budget, cutting taxes, and shifting spending to infrastructure.

Frenkel, not letting up on his argument, also presented a graph displaying the composition of transfer payments. Without arguing for any particular cuts, he pointed out that not all transfer payments are to the weaker sectors, and a full 14 percent of the increase went to the murky category of "non-profit organizations." In addition, as Netanyahu and Frenkel have argued, some of

these transfer payments are not means-tested; that is, they go to rich and poor alike. Of course, cutting benefits that go to everyone regardless of means (such as National Insurance Institute children's allowances) is equivalent to increasing taxes on the upper and middle class.

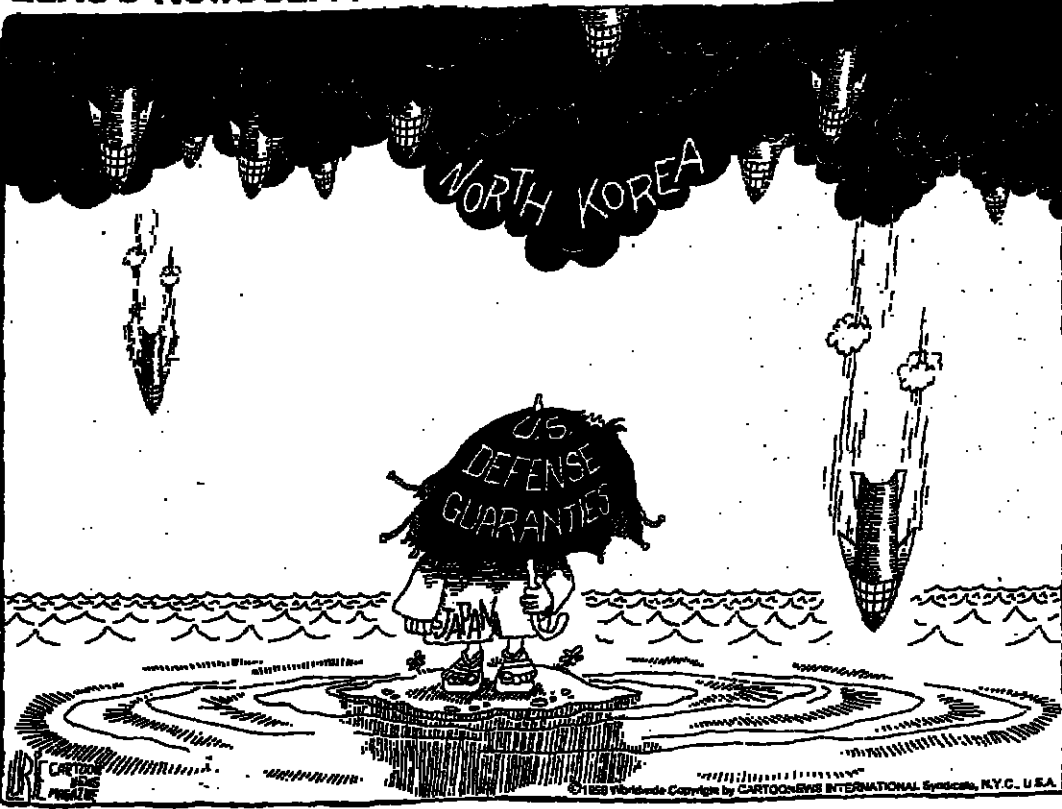
Regarding taxes, Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman's just-renewed promise to pursue tax reform is not a source of much encouragement. Though there is certainly room to simplify and rationalize the tax code, the assumption is that such a reform will be revenue-neutral. Even the concept of tax cut, despite the economic revolution promised by Netanyahu, remains taboo.

Also pushing off the prospect of a tax cut is the bad example set by one of the concrete "accomplishments" of Sunday's cabinet meeting: ending the freeze on defense spending. This freeze, which since 1985 amounted to a large cut in the defense budget's share of GDP, was swept away without even a promise of reform within defense spending. It is clear to everyone that the nation cannot afford to continue to allow everyone in the military to retire around age 40 with a large budgeted pension; that is, a pension that comes straight from the Treasury rather than contributions into a pension fund. Estimates show that by 2008, Israel will be paying for two armies: one standing and one retired. Yet Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz has the temerity to reject even the discussion of military salaries and benefits, declaring it bad for morale.

No one denies the seriousness of the threats facing Israel, nor the high cost of sophisticated weapon systems to meet that threat. But the defense budget stands at three times that of an average Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) nation as a percentage of GDP, and this figure should be going down, not up. Increases are certainly not warranted before the military has seriously faced the need for internal budget savings.

The passage of the budget by the cabinet marks the beginning of its tortuous journey through the Knesset, ending with the annual battle for last-minute political payoffs in late December. The great risk is that whatever fiscal restraint that has been exhibited by the cabinet will deteriorate in the Knesset, resulting in a tax increase. The cost of the lack of political spine necessary to pass a real growth-promoting budget - starting with Netanyahu and permeating the cabinet and Knesset - will be the prolonging of the current economic doldrums and the unemployment they bring.

Lurie's NewsCartoon



A decadent prude

Nothing relating to the Clinton/Lewinsky scandal aroused my curiosity as much as the recent prediction tossed out by one of Kenneth Starr's cronies that "when people read this report, they'll want to throw up."

What could they possibly have been doing in the Oval Office, I asked myself. How bad could it have been? *Newsweek* reported that Starr himself believed the public would be "deeply offended by some of the kinkier details."

So I geared up, like many others, for a kinky and potentially bulimic Friday night of cybernetic reading. First, the good news: defying almost all forecasts no systems crashed and access to the document was both quick and easy. The bad news? It goes downhill from there.

Much of the report was written in language so accessible as to be appropriate for goofy 13-year-olds. "She giggled," the report repeatedly states.

"He left the room, still in a state of arousal," (which also made her giggle, as I recall.) "He exposed himself." Reams and reams of this. If anyone was expecting something truly exciting, a session in which the two protagonists tie each other up with the hallowed White House phone lines, say, and dial porno services, it was not to be.

In fact, what emerges is nothing if not embarrassingly banal, nothing beyond the predictably sad stages of a furtive affair between an older, married man, and a younger, single woman.

He thought she was cute. She thought he was handsome. He was 50. She was 21. She had a crush; she told him so. He suggested she bring him a pizza, then he asked if he could kiss her. She said yes... and so on, endlessly, soporifically, like bubble bath. However reprehensible the behavior, however lamentable the situation, these things are as common as dirt.

WHETHER we like it or not, everyday, in every office, on every army base, at every university and

NOGA TARNOPOLSKY

without doubt in every romance novel, this is an off-repeated scene. The first lesson to be gleaned from this report is about the character of Kenneth Starr, the old-fashioned son of a west Texas preacher, whose evident interest in President Clinton's sex life borders on the surreal.

"He put his hands down her pants," we are told by the minis-

Each and every paragraph of Starr's report reeks of priggish sanctimoniousness

ter's son. "He touched her genitalia... He fondled her breasts with his hands and his mouth," he recounts.

It is arguable whether any of this achieves real kinkiness (a pretty elusive category), but what quickly becomes evident is that it is unnecessary. Who wants to know? Who cares?

Once the affair became a matter of public record, why regale us with minutiae and gory detail? Most of us, left to our own devices, could probably have guessed he fondled her breasts; it was, after all, your average garden-variety extramarital affair, with the quirky difference that these lovers, instead of trying to conceal their escapades from the conventional wife, parents, or children, were hampered by a pesky regiment of secret service agents.

So how does the straightlaced Starr justify his astonishing foray into this voyeuristic branch of legal brief-writing? Easily. In all seriousness he proposes that Clinton perjured himself by refusing to come straight out before the grand jury and say he "received oral sex" from Lewinsky, preferring to leave it at "engaged in inappropriate contact."

Arguing for obstruction of justice, Starr says the president and Lewinsky "both understood from their conversations that they would continue their pattern of covering up and lying about the relationship." Is it veritably shocking they chose silence over a public announcement of their affections? Could this be what Starr meant by kinky?

In a rare moment of blinding intuition, Starr reveals "the president had an incentive to keep Ms. Lewinsky from jeopardizing the secrecy of the relationship." After four-and-a-half years of investigations into everything from failed real-estate deals to the suicide of Vince Foster, this is a document which could have been summed up in one short phrase: "The president of the United States, then 50, had an adulterous affair with Monica Lewinsky, then an unpaid White House intern aged 21, and tried to hide the fact."

In this report both Clinton and Lewinsky come off pretty badly. Clinton for his hubris and a truly breathtaking lack of self-awareness, and Lewinsky for simple stupidity, naivete, and an irritating, cloying childishness.

It is likely the president will face impeachment proceedings as a result of this affair, and maybe he should; I don't know. What arises unmistakably from the report is an image of Kenneth Starr in odd and obscene attire, perhaps a pink tutu.

Nothing could be more pornographic than what he has produced here, a document forcing into the public sphere the most intimate acts of human behavior as though this were a banner for the truth. Each and every paragraph reeks of priggish sanctimoniousness.

The truth is that Clinton and Lewinsky did what a lot of people do, nothing weirder, nothing kinkier, and have been made to pay for it by a man whose shameless, ornate self-righteousness is of millennial proportions. Who would have ever thought prudishness could become decadent?

The writer is a journalist.

Why does Hilary stay?

SUSAN REIMER

"Why does Hilary stay?" After "Is Bill finished?" that is perhaps the most vexing question about the Monica S. Lewinsky scandal.

Why would Hilary Rodham Clinton stay married to this serial womanizer, who has subjected her to enormous public humiliation while at the same time wrecking their shared dream of a life of good works and social change?

How can she say, as she did when she introduced this man on the eve of the release of a report that would degrade her marriage, "I'm proud to introduce my husband and our president?"

Why does Hilary stay? Let me answer that question with another: Why do any of us stay? I think Hilary has stayed in her less-than-perfect marriage for the same reason any of us stay in a less-than-perfect marriage: It beats the alternative.

I am not being cynical here, but love is not the only reason people marry, and it is not the only reason people stay married.

Sometimes couples stay married because there isn't enough energy, not enough reason, to get unmarried. Sometimes the good outweighs the bad.

And I think, not for the first time, Hilary Rodham Clinton has weighed the good and the bad and decided that the scale continues to tip in favor of preserving her marriage.

Those of us on the outside of this complex relationship may see only the reasons for her to leave. President Clinton's sins are larger

Say what you will about her personal power trip, she didn't want to be first lady so she could decorate the White House for Christmas

than life and they are known to us in excruciating detail.

But the benefits to her of this marriage are also larger than life, and so are the consequences of ending it.

Leave him, and she pulls the pins out of what is left of the presidency, a life's mission; she has shared and cherished.

SAY WHAT you will about her personal power trip, she didn't want to be first lady so she could decorate the White House for Christmas. Hilary has been dedicated to social activism since she was a teenager, and the best place to effect change is from the White House.

She has tolerated intrusions and indignities and betrayals of almost mythical proportions - and not just from her husband.

But in return she has had the pulpit, if not the power base, to do what she has believed was right since her days in Methodist Youth Fellowship.

Married women everywhere make the same kind of deal with the devil. It just isn't on so grand - or public - a scale.

He can't hammer a nail, but he is great with the kids. He travels 26 weeks a year, but his paycheck lets her hire help. He won't go to parties with her friends, but he praises her in front of his. He cheated, but she loves her kids too much to cast their father out.

Every day women take the measure of their relationships. I'm not sure we are even aware we are doing it, but we are constantly asking ourselves if it is worth it.

According to the divorce statistics, 50 percent of us will say "no" one day and we will mean it. But the rest of us answer "yes" every day. Despite every broken promise, every dirty sock, every careless word, every angry bedtime.

If you asked any of us why we stay with our husbands, we might not be able to give any more than a quick, thoughtless answer. We might say that we've never thought of leaving, but that would be a lie. We have all thought of leaving, if only for a split second.

Only those women such as Hilary, who have endured sexual betrayal known by everyone in the neighborhood, have searched their souls for a reason to stay married, and their reasons do not deserve our casual scrutiny.

Why does Hilary stay? Only Hilary knows the answer. But we have all asked that question of ourselves. That Hilary stays should be the only answer we need.

(The Baltimore Sun)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

VIOLATING AGREEMENTS

Sir, - For many months, newspapers and news broadcasts here and abroad have carried a plethora of reports on the negotiations for the second withdrawal. But why should there be any such negotiations?

At the time of the surrender of Hebron, there was an official, signed and binding Note for the Record that explicitly states that Israel has exclusive control over further withdrawals of IDF forces, and they are not subject to negotiations with the PLO. The United States was a party to and signatory of this Note, and

the terms were reiterated in writing by then US Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Despite this unequivocal pledge, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright on behalf of the Clinton administration presumed to set the size of the withdrawal at 13.1 percent. The US administration has long shown its indifference to whether or not the PLO keeps its word on anything. This initiative on the part of Albright demonstrates that it is also indifferent to keeping its own word.

The government of Israel keeps

repeating that the second withdrawal is conditional on "reciprocity" - specifically, that the PLO begin to carry out the obligations to which it agreed in previous agreements. But among the terms of previous agreements are the non-negotiable status of the second withdrawal.

Thus, in carrying out any negotiations, Israel is submitting to a violation of past agreements by the US as well as by the PLO.

PJ BERLYN

Zichron Ya'acov

STUPID CHILDREN

that Israeli students are extremely ill-prepared for college-level thinking and writing, as compared to American Jewish college students.

One need only listen to the inanities voiced by children interviewed on the streets to understand the depth of ignorance of our children, even about their own country's history.

Obviously there must be an elite of Israeli pupils whose parents take a hand in their education; but the mass of our children are ignorant and uneducated, lacking any historical per-

principal responsible to an active board of parents.

Since aliyah, I have been involved as a parent with three schools here.

Two are poorly led, headed by feckless, unmotivated individuals who consistently do things that, in the American school, would result in immediate dismissal. The third school is headed by an effective, thoughtful educator who truly motivates his staff to do well, to

spective, "renting the video instead of reading the book" and being encouraged to be apathetic, bored and lacking in passion for anything.

It is not only our Education Ministry that is at fault; our Ministry of Communications also has done everything possible - on the television scene - to keep our children stupid.

But that seems to be the way Israelis want it.

MARILYN MAGEN

Tel Aviv.

EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

experiment and to meet student needs.

The issue is leadership. We need all the things that Doron suggests - good management, decentralization, etc. - but above all we need leadership accountable to the customers, the parents and children.

AVROM JACOBS

Kochav Ya'ir.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On September 15, 1933, *The Palestine Post's* Special Correspondent reported from the train which carried the body of King Faisal of Iraq from Jerusalem to Haifa that the Palestinian Arabs had shown an intense feeling for the monarch at all stations all along the route. Royal Air Force planes, accom-

panied by six Iraqi fighters had later carried the king's body for a funeral in Baghdad.

50 years ago: On September 15, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported that with a small Israeli flag tacked into place on the oak panel where until May 14 the British Royal Arms were displayed, the five justices of the Israel Supreme Court

were sworn in by the Minister of Justice, Dr. F. Rosenbluth, in the Law Court's Building of the Russian Compound in Jerusalem. The arrival of the Court was announced in Hebrew, instead of Arabic, as was custom in Mandatory days.

Alexander Zvielli

سكنا من الامم

Conspiracy to commit terror's a crime

Hoping to rein in terror in Northern Ireland, Britain has finally enacted anti-terrorist measures which may also make it trickier for Middle Eastern terrorists to operate out of London, Douglas Davis writes



British Prime Minister Tony Blair addresses the House of Commons on 'a timely and right move to underscore our total commitment to defeating terrorism.'

In the wake of last month's rash of bombings - in the Northern Ireland town of Omagh, which claimed 29 lives; in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam, which claimed 263 lives - British Prime Minister Tony Blair decided that urgent action was necessary.

He unceremoniously interrupted the summer holidays of parliament members and summoned them back to London to debate, and enact, a tough new package of anti-terrorist measures.

While creating legislation that would make it easier to convict Northern Ireland terrorists, whose outrages threaten to unstick the fragile peace process there, Blair seized the opportunity to append a clause to the bill making it illegal for people in Britain to conspire in acts of terrorism abroad.

"This is a timely and right move to underscore our total commitment to defeating terrorism wherever it is plotted or executed," Blair declared.

And in a letter to one legislator, a copy of which was obtained by *The Jerusalem Post*, Blair noted that he had "not taken these steps lightly.... They are tough measures and their purpose is clear. I believe it to be both necessary and important to act quickly and firmly."

In the past, Israeli and French security officials have vigorously protested that extremist groups have been allowed to use London as a command-and-control base for operations abroad. Similar complaints have come from officials in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Algeria and Tunisia.

More significantly, perhaps, the British capital has acquired a reputation as the financial center for terrorist operations.

According to the Paris-based Arabic-language *al-Wakef al-Arabi*, a total of \$80 million is raised annually for the needy among Britain's one million Moslems. But only about 10 percent of that actually reaches charitable causes in Britain.

"The rest," says the paper, "is transferred abroad to support Islamic fundamentalist organizations and movements."

Within weeks of last November's gun-and-grenade attack which killed 62 foreign tourists in Luxor, for example, British supporters raised some \$3.5 million. The sum was promptly transferred to Egypt's extremist Gama'a al-Islamiya,

which allegedly perpetrated the slaughter. Those British funds are now fueling the war against President Hosni Mubarak.

Britain is not only a center for financial transfers to extremist organizations, notes *al-Wakef al-Arabi*. It is now also a prime "investment center."

In less euphemistic language, London, with its extensive offshore banking connections, has unwittingly become the hub of a massive terrorist money-laundering operation, with Saudi renegade Osama bin-Laden, who was allegedly behind the Nairobi and Dar es Salaam bombings, among the most

London, with its extensive offshore banking connections, has unwittingly become the hub of a massive terrorist money-laundering operation

assiduous of the launderers.

While the Egyptian, Saudi, Bahraini, Algerian and Tunisian leaders are no doubt quietly satisfied that Britain has finally given teeth to its anti-terrorist rhetoric, none may be more satisfied that the radicals are to be reined in than Israel's security echelon, which has conducted a sustained campaign to persuade Britain to bear down on Hamas.

Israeli sources say they are convinced that Hamas, whose public face in Britain is its monthly journal *Filasteen al-Muslime* ("Islamic Palestine"), uses London as its overseas center for educational, logistical and fund-raising activities.

According to Israeli sources, some 50% of the funding for Hamas - millions of dollars - go to support terrorist operations.

In their effort to persuade Britain to act, Israeli officials produced documentary evidence to show that London is also used not only for

fund-raising and propaganda activities, but also as a base for orchestrating Hamas terrorist operations.

They cited a confession by an American activist, jailed in Israel for supplying arms to Hamas, who revealed that he had been sent from Chicago to London to receive orders from Hamas commander Abu Obeida.

According to Israeli intelligence sources, Abu Obeida was responsible for a number of attacks, including the abduction and murder of Israeli soldiers and bombings of civilian targets.

"I was told to meet Abu Obeida at [London's] Heathrow Airport," the American told his Israeli captors. "I was told he would give me my orders for the territories."

Another example concerned Islamic Jihad leader Ramadan Shallah, who spent five years ostensibly working on a post-graduate degree in economics at Durham University. He allegedly was using his studies as a cover to coordinate the activities of Islamic Jihad in Israel and the West Bank.

Yet another example was provided by Shallah's brother, Omar, who was sentenced to life imprisonment in Israel on terrorist charges. He told his captors that the leader of his group was "required to give detailed reports to Ramadan Shallah in London... and to receive orders in the same way, by telephone."

Both Abu Obeida and Shallah have since left Britain, but the Israelis are under no illusions that others have not taken their places.

Among the other Middle East-related terrorist groups operating in Britain is Al-Muhajiroun, the fast-growing Islamic extremist movement in London, which quickly applauded the US embassy bombings in East Africa.

"We endorse and applaud [the] bombings of US embassies in Dar es Salaam and Nairobi," said a statement faxed to the media in Britain immediately after the attacks. "This is because they are the embassies of the enemy of Islam and the Moslems, and the occupiers of Moslem land - Saudi Arabia."

Al-Muhajiroun added that "this is the beginning of much more bloodshed and deaths should the US continue to occupy Moslem land and oppress Moslems in the Gulf and elsewhere."

In 1990, at the height of the Gulf crisis, movement leader Omar Bakri Mohammed, 38, a Syrian exile, was interned for advocating the assassination of then-prime minister John Major.

Early this year, he issued a fatwa (religious decree) calling on Moslems to use "all means" to oppose Anglo-American attempts to compel Iraqi compliance with UNSCOM weapons inspectors.

Bakri lives openly in the North London suburb of Edmonton and does not hide his support for Hamas or his admiration for bin-Laden.

"Any Moslem," says Bakri, "should be able to fight to liberate their homeland from an occupying force - such as freedom fighters against Israel or US troops occupying the Middle East."

The objective of al-Muhajiroun, like that of bin-Laden, is the establishment of a Khilafa - a world Islamic state - that is ruled according to the Shari'a (Islamic law). Its arch enemies, again like those of bin-Laden, are America, Arab states which are close to the West - and the Jews.

Moreover, violence in the war against virtually any symbol of the degenerate, democratic, materialist, secular West is regarded as a legitimate tool for accomplishing its goal.

Among Bakri's admirers is the Saudi exile Dr. Mohamed al-Masari, who has called for the annihilation of Jews and the overthrow of the Saudi monarchy. So seriously is he taken by the Saudis that Britain announced his deportation to the Dominican Republic in the Caribbean at Riyadh's request. A British court, however, overturned the deportation order.

Other extremist Islamic movements in Britain include Lebanon's Hizbullah, Egypt's Gama'a al-Islamiya, Jihad and Moslem Brotherhood, and Algeria's Groupe Islamique Armee (GIA) and Front Islamique Salvation.

In addition, al-Ansar al-Shari'a, run by Abu Hamza al-Masri, has become the epicenter of long-distance Islamic revolution and supports Algerian and Egyptian terrorist groups. Hizbullah (the Islamic Liberation Party) operates mostly at universities, campaigns for the establishment of an Islamic state in Britain and causes headaches - and sometimes worse - for Jewish students on British campuses.

The power centers for the leaders of all these groups are the mosques - more than 100 in London alone - while followers are drawn from a mix of foreign Moslem students at

British universities and disaffected homegrown British Moslems, originally from Pakistan and Bangladesh, who contribute disproportionately to the ranks of the poor and dispossessed.

COMPLICATING the map of Islamic extremism is the fact that many of the most radical movements - led often by articulate, savvy, media-friendly and well-funded exiles - operate through a web of organizations that glory in less-menacing names.

Bin-Laden's unofficial representative in the West is believed to be Saudi exile Khaled Abdul Rahman Hamad al-Fauwaz, whose London-based organization is Nassiha wal-Isla - the Advice and Reformation Committee. The Islamic Observation Center is the apparently benign front of Egypt's Moslem Brotherhood. The innocuous-sounding Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights in Saudi Arabia is al-Masari's organization.

The big question now is whether Britain's new anti-terrorist measures will significantly inhibit the ability of terrorist groups to operate. Until now, Islamic extremists who settle in London have exploited precisely the democratic free-

doms they claim to despise and which they are ideologically committed to destroy: freedom of speech, of thought, of movement, of association and of religion.

Says David Pryce-Jones, a British authority on Arab-Muslim society: "They show great sophistication in knowing how a Western society operates and what its weaknesses are. They can exploit the legal system, the human-rights and asylum laws, and other elements of a democracy to which they don't themselves subscribe."

Britain has also made it easier for extremists to operate in its midst because of its tradition of tolerance, its flexible asylum laws, its judicial protection of dissidents and those threatened with deportation, and its emergence as an international financial center.

"Not least, Britain has been attractive to Middle Eastern groups because of the 'long tradition of Anglo-Arabism that began with the birth of Empire and still pervades the Foreign Office,' according to one observer."

In such a climate, the charismatic exiles have been free to flourish - to raise funds, create propaganda and recruit new members in order to help plan, organize and finance terrorist operations abroad.

Romania comes a-wooing while its ministers bicker

Romania is the east European state that has failed most miserably to impress Western investors. It is a land chock-full of potential and plans but, so far, precious little progress.

Casting about for an influential nation to impress, Romanian officials have increasingly been fixing their gaze on Israel as a possible conduit for the direct investments badly needed to fuel their sputtering privatization programs.

"An Israeli knows where Romania is," a Defense Ministry spokesman in Bucharest said wryly. "Compared to other countries, that's a good start."

Prime Minister Radu Vasile led a huge delegation of ministers and over 100 officials to Israel last month. The visit seemed of great importance to Romanians, whose media covered it extensively. It won precious little space in the Israeli press.

Last week three journalists, from *The Jerusalem Post*, *Ma'ariv* and *Yediot Aharonot*, went on a fact-finding tour of Romania's privatization world (as guests of the Ramat Gan-based Milomor-Resido Group, which is heavily involved in promoting Romania). At first glance, all the signs and portents look good for a fruitful business relationship between the two countries. There are an estimated half-million Israelis with former Romanian connections. Trade between Romania and Israel has jumped from \$37 million at the time of Nicolae Ceausescu's overthrow in 1989 to \$260 million last year.

At the end of May, 1,578 Romanian-Israeli joint-venture enterprises were registered. Elbit Systems is involved in upgrading the Romanian Air Force's Puma helicopter force with the most advanced combat electronics and weapons systems. Defense officials hinted about a possible agreement that would allow the Israeli Air Force to train in Romanian air space - similar to the arrangement with Turkey.

"The prime minister was so impressed by his visit to Israel Aircraft Industries that Romanian

ministers talked about it for a week after the visit to Israel," said the Defense Ministry spokesman.

"We have many programs with IAI," said Vasile. "We are interested in the possibility of purchase, as well as industrial cooperation." (IAI subsidiary Elta Electronics of Ashdod is a subcontractor for upgrading Romania's MiG-21s. Elta is supplying the fire-control radar in a contract led by Elbit.)

At the more mundane level of tourism, the president of Brasov city council proudly explained that half the foreign tourists at the main Alpin mountain resort complex were Israeli.

So much for the bustle of business and booming Romanian-Israeli joint ventures, à la the public relations people. In the decrepit reality of Romania today, the bright colors of the happy picture quickly turn gray.

FIRST COMES the startling sight of two key ministers in the government openly at loggerheads, and not shy about sniping at one another in front of visiting reporters.

The outspoken finance minister, Daniel Daianu, is scathing about Romania's privatization effort. "The feeble pace is due entirely to a lack of will. We have been debating and dithering over a dilemma - reconstruct first or privatize first - and doing nothing. There is a paradigm inimical to the process. Many companies continue to benefit greatly from the bloated public sector. It's a phony privatization."

Scarcely less scathing when he met him next day was Privatization Minister Sorin Dimitriu: "The finance minister is too pessimistic. The number of investment contracts being signed or negotiated this year is significantly higher. There is real progress in privatizing the state-owned enterprises... we actually delivered twice the number of privatizations we were supposed to, and still the finance minister is not happy."

As the ministers' public bickering continued, the prime minister called a plague on both their houses.

Romania has its eye on Israeli businessmen as potential investors in its flagging economy at a time when other foreigners are avoiding emerging markets, Thomas O'Dwyer reports

es. Vasile accused Daianu of delaying new tax-holiday legislation meant to encourage investors, and Dimitriu of dragging his feet on privatizing more concerns.

While the level of Israeli involvement in Romania is certainly laying down an obvious foundation for the future, it is somewhat less impressive than the glowing press releases proclaim.

"Israel is not a big player investing in privatized companies," said Dimitriu. "It's not even in the top 15 this year. France is first place in capital investment, Israel is 23rd."

He could have added that it's a pretty thin field anyway.

"In fact, for a country like Israel, joint ventures are a much better bet than direct capital investment," Dimitriu said. "To attract more of that sort of business we have set

up a business and information center in Israel. The most significant joint venture is in the aviation and defense sector and we want to expand that."

"As for the rest, companies Israel established in Romania usually have a share capital of less than \$100,000. Only a few might have more than that."

The business center is under the aegis of Milomor-Resido, which is itself entering a \$35 million joint-venture project in the Brasov resort to operate a 250-room hotel, water park and cable-car franchise.

DIMITRIU is proud of his privatization effort and apparently oblivious to the mounting criticism. The irony of the privatization effort being handled by a new

bloated state bureaucracy called the State Ownership Fund, tasked with managing the sale of 2,800 state enterprises, is lost on him. The privatizers have not been privatized.

Dimitriu reels off facts and figures, climbing numbers, climbing graphs. "We have had great success in 1997 and '98. Romania is one of the top six of the world's cement producers. In one year we privatized all of that... Romania has 10 refineries, four are privatized."

Much of the relentless flow of optimistic information pumped out by the bureaucracy has the inevitable feel of five-year plans and increasingly ambitious production levels.

President Emil Constantinescu recently went on television to cas-

tigate the politicians of the coalition government for their squabbling and their failure to advance market reforms.

"There is no worse adversary to reforms than wrangling and never-ending disputes among politicians," he said, adding that Romania's position had been exacerbated by "political, economic and financial crisis and a plunge in living standards of eastern Europe against the background of worldwide financial instability."

Yet Dimitriu insisted that the crisis in Russia was of little interest to Romania, despite the obvious fact that Romania has wasted the golden years since 1989 and now proclaims it has its privatization act together at a time when foreign investors will not touch emerging markets with a barge pole.

But even as the privatization minister was speaking, the Dutch telecommunications group KPN Telecom was announcing it was pulling out of the bidding for 35 percent of Rom Telecom, which is supposed to be a centerpiece of his program.

This was a serious blow and it appears other bidders are also having second thoughts. The auction for the Rom Telecom shareholding is likely to be a dismal affair after being touted as the most significant deal of 1998, with proceeds expected to help curb the yawning budget deficit.

FINANCE Minister Daianu gave the most compelling analysis of Romania's woes, and Romanians described him as honest and direct. "But he's not a politician, he's an intellectual, so he is ineffectual among the politicians," said one woman civil servant.

"Romania did not suffer a flight of portfolio capital because of the Russian crisis," said Daianu, "there was little or no capital invested in the country because of the poor progress of privatization." Every dark cloud over Romania must have a silver lining, it seems.

Daianu was also scathing about the quality of the privatization deals because they have not com-

pelled buyers to help develop the shattered national infrastructure.

"Infrastructure goes beyond bumpy roads," he said. "Infrastructure means no corruption, proper services, no red tape, the ability to close deals." He made it clear Romania is failing on all these counts.

"Israel could help traditional Romanian industries by ordering spare parts and such like. It could use some of our small high-tech segments - there is a high-tech intelligentsia and it is very good."

"If Indians can write software for Silicon Valley, why not have Romanian engineers do the same for Israel's high-tech industries?"

"You know," Daianu continued, "Romania is a gift from God - it has the mountains, the plains, the Black Sea coast, the Danube, Transylvania. And yet this Romania of ours is running a deficit in tourism of hundreds of millions of dollars. Tourism is collapsing month by month. All the other east European states with fewer gifts from God are running a surplus."

IN Braslov, the gateway to the beautiful health resorts of Transylvania and ski runs, the council president Adrian Taropa was in a different world, waxing lyrical on plans and potential.

All the Alpin resort hotels were at 90 percent capacity. There was indeed a shortage of entertainment, but half the tourists were Israeli and "Israelis seek only the landscape, not extensive services." This sounded like no Israelis he knew, until it became clear that the tourists were there in the crisp clear air for health reasons and were mostly elderly former Romanians drawn there by word of mouth, not by any tour-operator deals.

"All we hear is of new plans," he protested. "But when?" "Now," said Taropa, "we are going to put in new pipes for water and gas and electricity, and reconstruct the roads." And who was going to pay?

"The state." But the state has no money. State privatization, it seems, has come full circle.

'Sorry, we don't take money'

Romanian officials everywhere pleaded for direct capital investment from the West. On the micro level, it seemed remarkably difficult to give Romanians any money at all. At the tourist stalls near Bran Castle (Count Dracula's castle) in Transylvania, I offered a surly lady seven dollars for film and some batteries. Two notes were crisp and new, the third used and a little grubby. She handed that back. "Only take clean dollars," she said. "It's a dollar." I protested, "a perfectly legal dollar." Unacceptable. No sale.

At Bucharest airport duty-free, Ofer from *Ma'ariv* asked if credit cards were accepted. Yes, he was told, but when he handed

over his card, it was handed back. "The computer cannot read cards at night," the cashier said.

Strange, but OK, at least he could get rid of his Romanian lei then. "No, we do not accept Romanian currency, you must go outside and change it to dollars first." Outside was out of the question, on the other side of passport control. No sale.

On the Tarom flight home, business class, I offered American Express to pay for some duty-free gifts. "We do not accept this card." Why not? "It's a rule." OK, have a Visa. The stewardess disappeared for five minutes and came back with the card. "It is for use in Israel only."

"It damn well isn't," I snapped. "It is an international Visa card." Without a word of explanation, she vanished again and returned with the purchase slip, sale completed.

Meanwhile, Ofer had offered his gold Visa card to buy a gift for his wife. "We do not accept gold cards because there is no upper limit," the queen of bureaucracy informed him. We gazed at her and at each other, stupefied. We still don't know what that means.

In all, and despite our best efforts, we failed to give Romania's alleged free market around \$80. A paltry sum, but multiply such obnoxiousness a few thousand tourist times a week...

Ventriloquists vent in Vegas

Ladies and gentlemen," said emcee Jimmy Caesar, a tuxedo-clad holdover from a distant era, "this man needs no introduction." Out came Jim Teter, tuxedo-clad himself and fresh from his latest cruise ship appearance, where he delighted audiences with his "presidential dummies" — Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush and Clinton.

What followed was something out of a vaudeville dream, at once endearing and awful. By the end of Teter's set, you half-expected Broadway's Danny Rose to leap up and hustle him off to his next booking.

But this was no dream — this was the 1998 Vegas Ventriloquist Convention, held the last weekend of July at the Imperial Palace Hotel & Casino on the Strip.

Ventriloquist convention, you say? Why yes, the 24th straight year such an event has taken place.

Of course, for the first 22 years, the convention was held at the Vent Haven ventriloquism museum in Fort Mitchell, Ky., so don't feel too out of the loop.

The move to Vegas, spearheaded by a "vent" with the improbable name of Valentine Vox, is part of a campaign to attract more media and increase exposure for the art form — to create a day when Jim Teter would indeed need no introduction.

But barring a miracle comeback, that day has apparently gone the way of the eight-track tape.

Today, ventriloquism survives mostly on the margins of show business, an underclass of performers working mid-market comedy clubs, cruise ships, schools, churches and Kiwanis Club banquets. Even the most ardent practitioners labor under the stereotype of the "variety act" — eternally corny, available, as the saying goes, for weddings and bar mitzvahs.

It's all a precipitous drop from the exalted era of Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy. In an eerie manifestation of the times, three legendary ventriloquists died during the four days of this year's convention — Shari Lewis, "Buffalo Bob" Smith and Stanley Burns, a veteran New York performer.

Some are still alive. Senor Vences is 102 and lives in Spain. Paul Winchell is 75 and retired in Palm Desert, Calif.

On the phone, Winchell jokes that his famous figure Jerry Mahoney has taken up a new hobby — collecting dust. "Television and its use of computers can make everything talk, so there's no need for the art of ventriloquism anymore," he says. "I don't think young kids today would even understand it."

And yet, while nothing at this

In a bid to return an aging art form to center stage, the dummies and their human pals have moved their annual convention to the capital of sin. But letting in the media comes with a price, writes Paul Brownfield



Top-line act: Willie Tyler and his Tommy Hilfiger-garbed pal, Lester.

(Los Angeles Times)

year's convention screamed "Ventriloquism Comeback," they were there in force — an estimated 350 people in all, not including the dummies. There was a CEO of a Denver oil company, a psychotherapist from Boston, an engineering school teacher from Vienna, Austria. Grown men (and women) with real jobs who picked up a dummy when they were 8 or 9 or 10 and now, all these years later, find themselves performing in their local libraries and schools for reasons that seem slightly beyond them.

Many of the top-line acts — Ronn Lucas, Michele LaFong, Willie Tyler, Dan Horn — lead the hard-scrabble life of the road. Finding them for pre-convention interviews serves as a good introduction to their lives. Lucas phones from Chesaning, Mich., where he's doing a week opening for the Oak Ridge Boys aboard a docked steamboat; Tyler, who once upon a time toured with Little Stevie Wonder and the Supremes in a Motown review, invites a reporter along on a trip to a mall near his Northridge, Calif., home, where he buys a new shirt for his dummy Lester (Tommy Hilfiger,

boys' size 4). Tyler's just come back from a two-week engagement at the Princess Hotel and Casino in the Bahamas. The next day, he leaves for a five-nighter at a comedy club in Albuquerque, N.M. Tyler wasn't planning to arrive at the convention until Sunday night for the gala show. Like others, he's of two minds about the convention — it's great to see so many people there, but some of these people, God bless them, are a tad too dedicated to their dummies.

Spend enough time with a group of people and their various dummies and an odd thing happens to the outsider. The experience goes from funny to surreal to sad, then becomes strangely uplifting.

Of course, to cycle all the way through to the uplifting stage, you have to stay at the convention for at least three days, which most outsiders aren't willing to do. Never mind that the Imperial Palace, where the convention was held, isn't one of the classier joints on the Strip.

Most outsiders — the media, that is — have a very definite agenda: They

swoop in, get lots of video of wacky-seeming people, then swoop out. This year's contingent included NBC's *Today* show, CNN and *Access Hollywood*.

The TV crews had irresistible footage everywhere they looked: a 20-year-old Michigan farm girl named Alicia Dacoba, who throws her voice into a "talking pig" named Porkchop ("When Babe came out, I about had a nervous breakdown," said her mother, Deborah); a San Francisco police officer who walks his North Beach beat with his dummy, Brendan O'Smarty ("I only take him out on soft domestic violence calls," said Officer Bob Geary); and 75-year-old Ruth Means, who plays the winter parks of Tucson, Ariz., with her sequined dummy, Ms. Trxie.

But it wasn't all ham and cheese: every now and then, amid the acts that bludgeoned you into a kind of giddy submission, real talent would suddenly reveal itself.

It happened on Friday morning, when a 39-year-old pro named Dan Horn from Phoenix, Ariz., gave a workshop on soft puppet manipulation and made his dummy Orson

come breathtakingly alive. It hardly mattered that you could see Horn manipulating Orson to frown, blanch, guffaw and attack his master with a flurry of blows. Watching Horn, you could sense the awesome power a ventriloquist can have, an ability to get a roomful of people to suspend their disbelief that a puppet can come to life.

"Orson's based on my relatives," said Horn. "For 91, he's pretty spiky." Hip enough to play comedy clubs and colleges, Horn is among those pros who can pull in several thousand dollars a week onstage. He's not in the category of a Jeff Dunham, the highest-paid ventriloquist in the country, but Horn's not doing library dates while holding down a full-time job, either.

The event's move from Kentucky to Vegas has had its consequences — not only chasing away the Christian ventriloquists but leaving others to wonder whether the purity of the event has become as sullied as a whiff of casino air.

By many accounts, Fort Mitchell provided the setting for a far clubbier, more congenial affair, not least because there was nothing else to do there but sit around the lobby of the Drawbridge Inn and talk shop. In Fort Mitchell, say the vents, people held "jam sessions" in their rooms — passing a dummy among four or five people, improvising a voice and personality.

"I think Valentine did what needed to be done — he let the media in," said Carla Rhodes, a 16-year-old vent from Charlestown, Ind.

But letting the media in comes with a price. Media exposure at a ventriloquist convention has a way of leading people to the conclusion that vents are a bit off as a group. You know, like the guy in that *Twilight Zone* episode who becomes possessed by his dummy, or Anthony Hopkins, driven to murder by Fats, his demonic sidekick in the movie *Magie*.

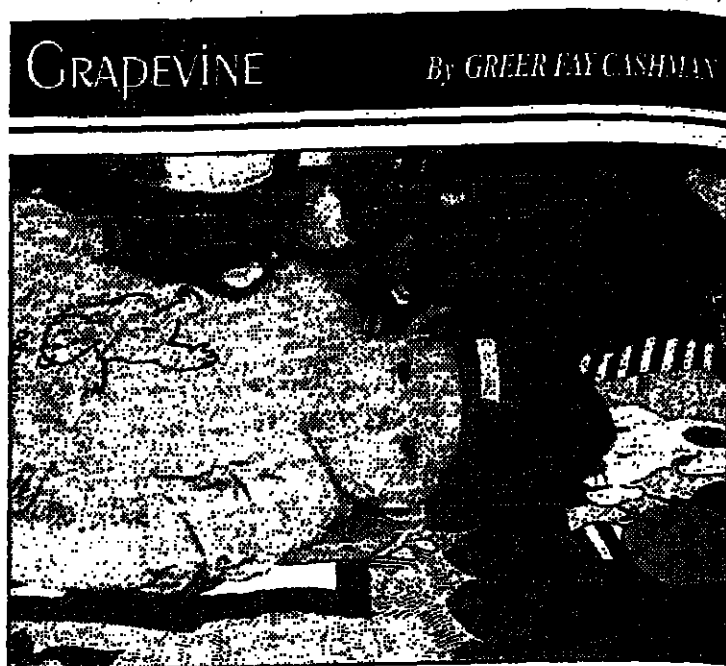
Maybe that's why the theme of Dunham's lecture had the feel of a plea. "Put down the dummy," he commanded his fellow vents, "and pick up a pen."

In other words, be funny. Please. Don't just get up and talk in a squeaky voice through some animal puppet. Forget about your technique, forget about whether your lips are moving. Think character.

Bergen, after all, the biggest act of all time, wasn't terribly proficient with his lip movement. But, in Charlie McCarthy, he created a character so vivid the pair actually hit it big on radio.

"Edgar Bergen was the Seinfeld of his time," Dunham is fond of saying. "People thought Charlie was really alive."

(Los Angeles Times)



Baby Tom, son of Olympic champion Yael Arad, is a natural model.

Even though supermodel Claudia Schiffer had to cancel her planned appearance at tonight's opening of the Oasis Casino in Jericho and some of the other bright spots of the launch have been deferred, it's on the cards that most of the invitees will turn up anyway. Let's not kid ourselves — what they really want to do is play.

At a Casinos Austria-sponsored tea party at his residence last week, Austrian Ambassador Wolfgang Paul pointedly remarked that Casinos Austria (which owns a 30% stake in the resort complex that includes the casino) is a very successful company despite operating under strict government control. Was he trying to spell out a message to the Israeli authorities, who have so far balked at establishing a casino on terra Israel?

The tea party, which showcased the confectionary art of Vienna's famed Cafe Demel, included a marzipan roulette table, complete with wheel. Although he's not supposed to eat sweet things, shipping and real-estate tycoon Yudi Ofer just couldn't resist sinking his teeth into one of his lucky numbers — 17. The other is 29.

FASHION show organizers long ago discovered that it's dangerous to rely on children. It doesn't matter how talented they are; they just don't always do what is expected of them — especially if they're very young. So when Shilav, which caters primarily for the infant and pre-school market, decided to show off its new collection at Beit Sokolov, it created an instant playground complete with fake grass, slides and cubby-house, in which youngsters just wandered around at whim. And to make the whole scene more interesting, it brought in some celebrity parents to keep a rein on their offspring. Among them were artist Daphna Armoni, who brought her twins Ella and Eden, model Galit Farber, who came with her son Ro'i, and former beauty queen Nicole Halperin, who played with her son Sa'ar.

But the tot who attracted most attention was Tom Kahane, the



Siyas: savior on air

recently born son of judo champion and Olympic medalist Yael Arad and husband Lior Kahane, a part-time model. Kahane was certainly a model dad, handling Tom with a gentleness that would rival any mother. He was also very good about letting photographers get their shots. Tom didn't seem to mind all the fuss.

WE small hours broadcaster Yossi Siyas has done some wondrous things for his listeners, but has never saved anyone from a murder rap. Thus, on Sunday morning, Siyas was pleasantly surprised when a caller told him that his show had saved him from a life sentence. Apparently he had been fingered as the guilty party in a murder, and there was enough circumstantial evidence to warrant his arrest. During his month in prison, the suspect racked his brains trying to think of an alibi — and suddenly remembered that, at the time the murder had been committed, he was on air, talking to Siyas. The police reportedly retrieved the relevant tape — and the suspect walked free.

NOT everything is exactly as it seems. Speaking at The Freedom Forum in Jerusalem last week, journalist and broadcaster Tommy Lapid recalled the time he was director-general of the Israel Broadcasting Authority, when he canceled a documentary about the Armenian genocide without explanation. The print media immedi-

ately branded him a fascist, but Lapid — who can give as good as he gets — on this occasion had to lick his wounds in silence.

What happened was that former deputy Mossad chief, David Kimche, then director-general of the Foreign Ministry, had called Lapid and told him that if the documentary aired it would do enormous harm to Jews who were fleeing Syria and coming to Israel via Turkey. The Turks were turning a blind eye, but they would not continue to do so if the film depicting their atrocities to the Armenians was screened. So Lapid put up with the attacks, consoling himself



Lapid: helped save Jews (David Rabinger)

that, in his own small way, he was helping to save Jewish lives.

ALSO speaking at the Freedom forum was *Yediot Aharonot* political commentator Nahum Barnea, who, asked about the accuracy of the Israeli press, replied: "Henry Kissinger used to say that we deserve a Pulitzer prize for fiction."

FEW people refuse Daniela Oren, chairperson of the board of trustees of Dror, the Israeli Association for Housing Discharged Psychiatric Patients. Indeed, when she approached South African Ambassador Frank Land and his wife Maatheen to lend their home for a gala fundraiser, the Lands, who last year made their official residence available for the same cause, were only too happy to turn the event into a South African tradition. Another request by Oren was that guests dress in black and white. Only a few, among them Nagwa Bassoumy, wore both colors. But the overwhelming majority wore black — and some wore white. The event was a fashion delight. Standing out in brown was Judy Nir-Mozes Shalom, who accompanied her husband, Science Minister Silvan Shalom.

Other Israeli dignitaries included Ronni and Elisheva Milo, Avigdor and Dalila Kahan, and Ra'anana mayor Zeev Dielski, who wished Milo well in the future.

FRIENDS of the late Colombian president Dr. Virgilio Barco, a great friend of Israel, will today inaugurate a grove in his memory in the foothills of the Judean Hills. The ceremony will be attended by Colombian Ambassador Dr. Patricia Samper and Carolina Isaacson de Barco, the president's widow.

JERUSALEM writer Shifra Horn's latest best-selling novel *Hayafa Banashim* ("The Fairest Among Women"), is set in an old Arab house known to residents of Old Katamon as "the musical notes house" because of its distinctive window bars. Completely unaware of the novel's setting, Horn's 22-year-old son, Gilad, recently moved into the top story of that very building, which today houses a Jewish study center on its lower floors.

Before signing the lease, Gilad stunned his mother by phoning her and asking, "What do you know about the musical notes house?" He told her he had chosen to live there because he thought it would provide inspiration for his musical compositions.

"My son says nothing in life happens by chance," Horn commented. "I feel that he is returning to the neighborhood of my childhood. I grew up in the house next door, and as a child always fantasized about who the Arab residents of the musical notes house had been before it was abandoned."

I'm gaining religion — but losing my husband

Dear Ruthie, My husband and I were married for 10 years before we had our son, who is now two. Because we got married very young, when we were both still students, we decided not to have children right away. Then when we were ready, I didn't get pregnant for another five years.

The doctors said nothing was physically wrong with either of us, but the pressure to have a baby must have been having a negative effect on our fertility. You must understand that in spite of the pressure of studies, work and then trying for a baby, we were a very solid couple. We went through everything together, and always managed to talk out our differences.

But something is beginning to change. During the time I was trying to get pregnant, I swore that if I did have a baby, I would thank God in some way. This may sound strange for someone who never gave much thought to religion. (I came to Israel for national reasons only, and stayed here because my husband was Israeli.)

Thus, when our son was born, I began to take more of an interest in Judaism. My hus-

band teased me about this, but never really interfered — as long as it remained on an intellectual level.

But this year I decided that I would fast on Yom Kippur and go to synagogue, instead of down to the Sinai with friends, like we usually do, to get away from the city, where it's impossible to drive. When I told my husband, he got really angry and accused me of "becoming religious." Nothing I have said has made a difference, and I am very upset.

This is the first time we have had a fight we couldn't finish overnight. My husband announced that he would go to the Sinai with our son by himself, and I told him that was fine with me; but all of this was part of the fight, not done out of mutual understanding.

I think my husband is being totally unfair; he thinks I have gone crazy.

Is this an insurmountable problem? It has made us tense and unfriendly in a way we never were before. I fear for our marriage.

Dear Ruthie



Ruthie Blum

Becoming Worried — Fast Somewhere in Israel!

Dear BWF, Whether this is an insurmountable problem depends on the degree of your religious beliefs and behavior, and on your husband's openness to the change he sees in you.

What you have to be optimistic about is the strength of your marital bond through all these years — a strength many couples cannot boast. You, at least, have a strong foundation to lean on.

The other point you must consider is that having a child inevitably alters the constellation and dynamics of a family. "Two's company, three's a crowd" seems virtually tailor-made to apply to marriage. I stress this because if your decision to fast on Yom Kippur weren't a point of contention at this stage in your marriage, it is likely something else would be.

The attempt to have a baby was a joint project; but as soon as the baby came along

your husband probably felt like a third wheel, robbed suddenly of his exclusive status as the main focus of your attention and sole partner in the baby venture. This in itself portends trouble in paradise. Coupled with a change in your attitude toward God — yet another "usurper" of a role your husband used to play — paradise may seem headed for a veritable earthquake.

However, before panicking over the apparent speedy unraveling of your marriage, you might take this opportunity to sit down with your husband and discuss all the feelings that have been building up since the birth of the baby.

If you can both be honest with yourselves and with each other about what is at the root of this new and scary schism, you will have a fighting chance of retrieving your friendship.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, Jerusalem 91000. For e-mail: ruthie@post.co.il ("Dear Ruthie" also appears in *In Jerusalem* and in *City Lights on Fridays*.)

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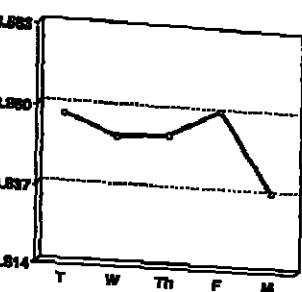
BUSINESS & FINANCE

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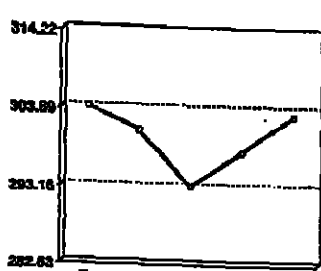
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in brief

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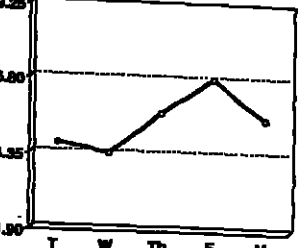


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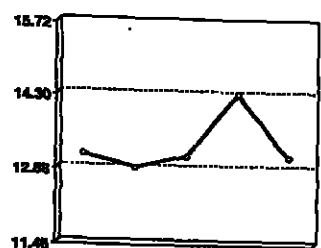
GOLD

\$ per ounce

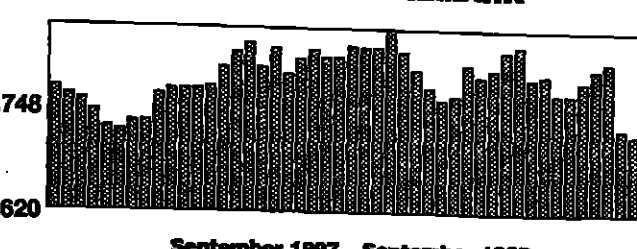


OIL

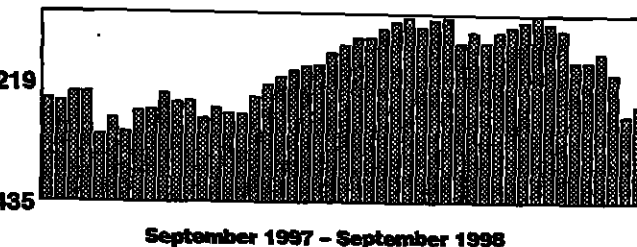
\$ per barrel of Brent crude



DOLLAR / DEUTSCHEMARK



DOW JONES INDUST. AVG.



Discount announces structural changes

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Israel Discount Bank's board of directors has approved a restructuring plan aimed at improving the embattled financial institution's image.

Under the new structure, Israel's third-largest bank would be divided into three branches as follows: the business division, which will supply services to large and medium-sized companies; a banking division, which will supply retail banking services; and a financial division which will supervise the activity of the bank's dealing rooms and risk management.

During the last several years, the banking industry has been moving gradually away from a product-oriented approach toward a client-oriented approach. Under the new structure, a Discount customer will receive all the services he needs from the same bank employee instead of having to approach the clerk who is responsible for each of the services he needs.

Discount chairman Arie Mientkavich said that the change is in line with the bank's strategy.

"The planned change is inevitable considering the radical changes in the world and local banking industry," Mientkavich said.

By announcing this change, Israel's third-largest bank follows the other leading banks which have introduced similar changes in

the past. Discount general manager David Granot said that the structural changes are based on the experiences of the other banks. He added that the move would improve Discount's ability to compete.

Analysts welcomed the change saying that it was inevitable as Discount was losing clients to other banks which are more client oriented.

"Discount had to take this move," said Doron Tsur, head of research at Sahar Securities. "Bank Hapoalim and Bank Leumi have started this process already four or five years ago."

He added, however, that the introduction of changes may lead to some difficulties.

"Such a change is not simple. It calls for a change of the organizational and marketing culture. It also requires a skilled and motivated work force," Tsur said.

He added that the age of Discount's workers is higher than that of other bank employees and that the bank has a lower number of university graduates.

"For a worker who is not motivated the change may be traumatic," he said.

The bank, which is considered the least efficient of the country's five largest banks, has been suffering from a negative image mainly due to a bitter dispute between the bank's management and workers union, which led the management to call a lockout earlier this year.

August job-seekers down 0.5%

Central Bureau of Statistics: '98 unemployment to total 9.2%

By Jerusalem Post Staff

The number of people who actively sought jobs last month declined in comparison with the previous month by 0.5 percent to 157,800, according to the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry's Employment Service.

Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai said he does not see in the monthly decline a reversal of the overall joblessness trend. Unemployment has climbed during the current government's term from a low of just under 6% to 9.4% as of last month.

The Labor Ministry's figures do

not affect the basic gauge of employment, since unlike the Central Bureau of Statistics' figures, they are not gathered and analyzed by professional statisticians, and they only reflect what happens at the Employment Service.

Meanwhile, the CBS yesterday published its preliminary estimates for the current year's national accounts.

Growth in gross domestic product, according to the bureau, will total 1.5%-2% at the end of this year, much like last year, which saw a sharp contraction in comparison with the previous three years' rates of growth, which



Eli Yishai. No trend reversal (Ariel Izraelimski)

ranged between 4.5% and 7%.

The labor market will have added 20,000 workers by the end

of the year, according to the estimate, thus continuing the declining trend. In 1994, 120,000 new workers were added, subsequently joined by 100,000, 50,000 and 30,000 new workers in 1995, '96 and '97 respectively.

The average jobless rate is estimated to be 9.2% for the year, after having stood at 7.7% last year and 6.7% the previous year.

Export growth is expected to shrink to 3%-4% by year's end, after having reached 7% last year. Analysts attribute the slowdown in exports to the crises plaguing a host of emerging and developed markets, which have translated to reduced overseas sales of Israeli-

cut diamonds as well as food and high-tech products.

On the other hand, the CBS estimates that trade conditions, namely the ratio between prices of imports and exports, will continue to improve by the end of this year from an Israeli standpoint.

Import prices, which have generally been declining in recent months in line with the global slump in commodity prices, are expected to ultimately rise less sharply than export prices. Considering that quantitatively, exports are now also growing relatively faster than imports, the CBS expects a further narrowing of the national trade deficit.

IMF mulls short-term capital controls in Asia

By BILL TARRANT

SEOUL (Reuters) — Short-term capital controls may be adopted to avert the kind of regional contagion that caused a serial swoon among Asia's economies last year, the IMF's Asia-Pacific Director Hubert Neiss said yesterday.

Speaking to a media conference on the Asian financial crisis, Neiss said the deliberations about the extent of these controls were still going on, apparently with the IMF's blessing.

"My only prediction is that it will lead to some measures that will make it difficult for banks to run up short-term debts to foreigners," he said.

He said this would likely be done through a combination of prudential regulations and taxes on foreign exchange deposits.

South Korea was on the brink of national default on its short-term obligations last December after exhausting its foreign exchange reserves in a futile bid to prop up its currency, the won, during the regional currency crisis that began last year.

Neiss declined to elaborate on what the controls would entail and where they would be implemented, saying the discussions were about controversial measures.

"It is important that [the controls] should not proliferate into general capital controls," Neiss said. "They should act to prevent excesses and abuses."

An unexpected dimension of last year's financial crisis was the panicky withdrawal of capital and the calling in of short-term loans by foreigners under a psychology of fear and contagion.

The new controls would try "to protect countries from the overvolatility of short-term flows" of capital, Neiss said. "No final conclusion has been reached."

Neiss also said the IMF was keenly watching Malaysia's experiment with more sweeping capital controls.

Malaysia recently introduced a range of foreign exchange controls to shield its ringgit currency and economy from speculators and global financial instability.

"This is an experiment that everybody will be carefully watching, and whether it succeeds over a short while or on an enduring basis," Neiss said.

"Experience has shown that bankers and businessmen have proven to be too clever about circumventing such controls, when they have been applied elsewhere," he said. "It is not certain that Malaysia can insulate its economy."

"Whilst you have these controls and you succeed in insulating interest and foreign exchange rates, whether you use this to push

ahead with reforms is the question," he said.

"Maybe some breathing space will make it easier to push for reform," Neiss said. "Or maybe because there's breathing space, there's less pressure to make these reforms than there would be."

Malaysia's central Bank Negara Deputy Governor Zeti Akhtar Aziz said on Friday the country could end the controls if stability was restored to the financial markets.

Neiss said the first phase of the crisis in Asia has passed with the stabilization of currencies and external debt. The IMF austerity prescription was necessary for that to happen.

The next phase of restructuring — and dealing with a sharp recession — comes with different medicine, Neiss said.

"The IMF is not preaching austerity, at the moment, it's preaching fiscal expansion. We're in a different phase now."

The IMF has arranged nearly \$120 billion in bail-out packages for South Korea, Indonesia and Thailand.

The big rescue deals in Asia and Russia have left the world's lender of last resort with as little as \$5 billion to cope with mushrooming problems elsewhere.

Neiss said the commitments to Asia are not endangered.



Soothing UK unions

British Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott yesterday addresses the Trades Union Congress in Blackpool, amid a chorus of union warnings of an imminent layoff wave and calls for monetary expansion. (AP)

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Partner, Orange Plc. ink deal

By NINA GILBERT

BRISTOL — Partner Communications Company, Israel's third cellular telephone operator, has signed a strategic partnership agreement with Orange Plc., the UK's largest digital mobile phone company.

As part of the deal, Partner will use the Orange brand name for its product. Partner CEO Amikam Cohen said that Partner would be "taking part in the effort to spread the Orange brand name around the world."

Partner's majority shareholder, Hong Kong-based Hutchison Telecom, also owns 49 percent of Orange Plc., which is traded on the London stock exchange.

Cohen, speaking to reporters at Orange headquarters in Bristol, said Partner would begin initial operations on October 7 with a limited number of subscribers. The cellular network is to be fully launched in January. Partner won the tender to operate Israel's third cellular network in February, paying \$400 million to the government

for a license to operate the first GSM network in the country.

Jacob Kedmi, Partner's vice president for marketing, said the GSM network, which is used in 120 countries, would enable Partner subscribers to travel abroad with their phones. He said Partner is in the midst of negotiating "roaming" agreements with other countries, including the US and Europe. He expects that by January Partner will have deals with 50 to 70 countries that will enable its subscribers to have service in those areas, he said.

PaTel, the Palestinian telecommunications company, also is establishing a GSM cellular network that is due to begin operations in the next few months. Partner and PaTel are working on a "roaming" agreement and will be coordinating their use of a portion of GSM network. Swedish telecommunications company Ericsson is setting up the cellular network infrastructure for both Partner and PaTel.

Kedmi said Partner's technology would make it nearly impossible for telephone conversations to be intercepted.

Kedmi and Cohen refused to reveal what prices Partner would be offering, but said their packages would be "fair." Customers who join the network in the initial phase are to be offered special benefits. Partner is 46.9 percent owned by Hutchison Telecom, 20.2% by Matav, 16.5% by Tapuz, and 16.5% by Elbit.

Reading between the lines... you have time for trading action until 11 PM.



The Conference Circuit

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

15.9 A two-day conference celebrating the 25th anniversary of the School of Nutritional Sciences at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Quality Sciences will be held on the faculty's Rehovot campus. Lectures will be given by experts from Israel and abroad. Some 350 nutrition professionals from all over Israel will attend.

16.9 Leading physicians along with general managers of Health Funds and hospitals will discuss **Preferences in Health Services** at a morning conference at the Dan Panorama Convention Center in Tel Aviv. Subjects for discussion are: "Limited resources in health services"; "Ethical considerations in determining allocations"; "Rationing and prioritization in health services"; and "The third phase in reforming health systems in the world of budgetary preferences."

16.9 Clinical psychologist Yehudit Handelzaltz will lecture in the ongoing **Women to Women** Healthcare series at 20 Shaul Hamelech Street, Herzliya Pituah. Handelzaltz will focus on changing physical and psychological needs as women approach middle age. She will also discuss confronting new challenges, such as, for instance, starting a new business. All lectures in the series are held at 8.30 p.m.

16.9 Tools for the management of research-and-development assets, patents and logos for programming and Internet purposes will be discussed at an all-day seminar to be held on the premises of the Council for a Beautiful Israel, 80 Rokach Boulevard, Tel Aviv.

13.10 The JP Morgan investment bank; the Lazard Freres investment bank; the Vivendi Group, which has investments in communications, transportation, water, sewage systems and infrastructure; the Bouygues Group, which specializes in communications finance and infrastructure projects; and Japan's Nishio Iwai, which is active in communications, energy, agriculture and petrochemicals are among the international business organizations that have registered for the Prime Minister's Jubilee Business

Conference taking place at the Jerusalem International Convention Center. Some 2,000 participants are expected to attend the three-day event.

18.10 The Golda Meir International Training Center, Mashav, the Foreign Ministry's Center for International Cooperation, the International Council of Women, and Soroptimist International are joining forces for an international six-day seminar at GMMC-ITC, 12 David Pinsky Street, Haifa. The purpose of the seminar is to help women help themselves. Participants will present project experiences undertaken by National Councils of Women in fields of socioeconomic, and will analyze tactics and strategies applied at local, national and international levels. They will also develop project proposals adaptable to their respective situations for empowering women.

12.11 The 19th **Europartenariat Espana 1998** will take place in Valencia. Some 3,000 business people from over 80 countries are expected to attend and form business links in fields of agro-foods, ceramics, textiles, leather goods, packaging, chemicals, plastics, computers, toys and gifts, wood furniture, construction, metallurgy, health and service industries.

13.12 The Laromme Hotel Jerusalem is the venue for the 24th annual conference of the **European International Business Academy EIBA**, which is being held in cooperation with Bar-Ilan University's Graduate School of Business Administration. The conference's theme is "International business strategies and Middle East regional cooperation." Sub-topics include: "The role of international corporations in Middle East economies"; "Marketing in culturally diverse environments"; "International franchise distribution systems"; "Internationalization of services"; "Regional management of natural resources"; "Emerging markets and internationalization"; "Cross-country ownership" and other related subjects. Among the participants will be Professor John Dunning, one of the world's foremost experts in international business. An emeritus professor of International Business at the University of Reading, Dunning is currently State of New Jersey Professor of International Business at Rutgers University.

Korea's rude awakening

Nine months after the election of President Kim Dae Jung on a reform platform, Korea's economic changes seem to consist of more form than substance

By EVELYN IRYANI

SEOUL—When South Korea's economy collapsed last year and it pleaded successfully for an international bailout, the quid pro quo was to reform.

Like its troubled neighbors in Asia, South Korea needed a dramatic transformation—away from the insular, clumsy patterns that protected poor decisions by well-connected politicians and business executives.

The government was called upon to open up its markets and dismantle the powerful conglomerates whose massive overseas borrowings were blamed for triggering last year's collapse of this once-dynamic economy.

And since then, the country has seemed the star pupil of the International Monetary Fund, winning high marks for boosting its dwindling foreign reserves to \$41 billion, renegotiating \$158b in foreign debt and passing laws designed to open up its long-protected market and toughen financial oversight.

But nine months after the election of President Kim Dae Jung on a reform platform, the changes seem to consist of more form than substance.

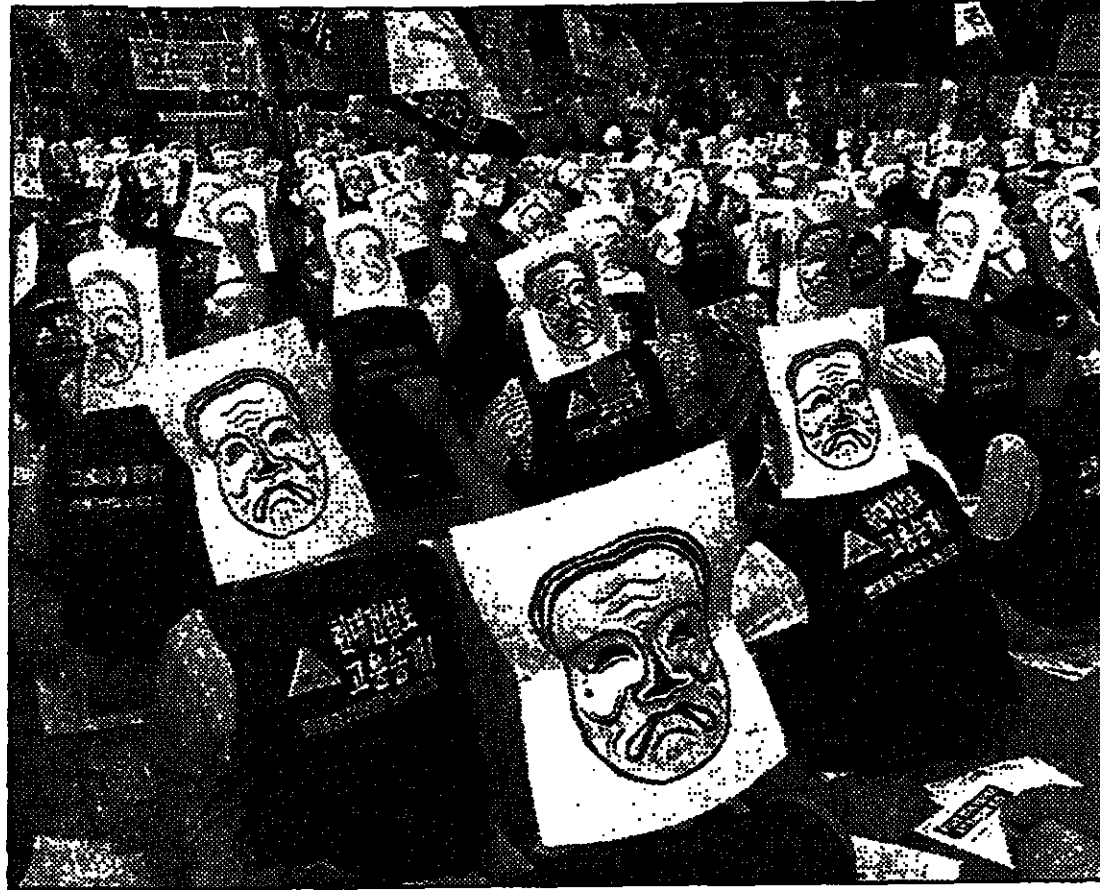
The nation's largest companies today have a stronger, rather than weaker, role in the South Korean economy, and the gap between the haves and have-nots has widened. The wealthy tycoons who run those companies, known as "chaebol," have grown even richer off the high interest rates that are sending thousands of small and medium-size companies into bankruptcy every month.

At all levels of the South Korean economy—from banking to privatization to labor reform—the government has been thwarted by powerful corporate interests, labor unions and a public fearful of mounting job losses, rising prices and foreign domination.

Even in the areas where the government succeeded in revising key laws and regulations, the actual practices have changed little.

"We have beautiful laws but the government needs to execute them," said a frustrated Howard Lee, director of SeAh Steel Corp. "You can make an absolutely good law, but it is useless if it's not enforced."

The gap between South Korea's promise and reality illustrates just how difficult it is for Asia's governments to perform painful economic overhauls that require not just significant legal and fiscal changes but wrenching psychological readjustments as well.



A jobless rally in Seoul last week: An estimated 2,000-3,000 small and medium-sized businesses close down each month, and one in four Korean workers is delinquent on payments to banks or retailers.

Now, critics fear that Korea's failure to confront these entrenched interests is accelerating a recession that is expected to cut growth by as much as 8 percent this year and leave 2 million jobsless.

The middle class and poor are being hit the hardest. One out of four Korean workers is delinquent on payments to banks or retailers, according to the Korea Investors Service Co. Divorce and crime rates are on the rise.

A series of recent events has undermined confidence in Kim, a longtime opposition leader elected in November whose popularity at home and abroad had given him a powerful mandate for change.

These events include the government's intervention last month in a nasty trade dispute at Hyundai Motors Co. and its recent aborted auction of bankrupt Kia Motors, which has prompted unhappy bidders like Ford Motor Co. to threaten legal action. The bankrupt firm, burdened with nearly \$10b in debt, is still operating, and the government has agreed to reschedule the auction soon.

In addition, after its earlier promises to move quickly to dismantle state-owned monopolies, the South Korean government has

delayed the privatization of some lucrative industries, such as the tobacco, energy and telecom markets, to 2003.

Shaken by criticism, the South Korean government this month announced a massive \$4.9b stimulus package and agreed to accelerate the infusion of \$37.5b into the country's ailing banks by the end of the month.

You Jong Keun, special economic advisor to the president and governor of Cholla Province, said this "Desert Storm approach" is the country's only hope for slowing its downward spiral.

"We must commit enough resources to win this war," he said. But Lee Hahn Koo, president of the Daewoo Economic Research Institute, is skeptical that even such drastic priming will work.

This plan is intended to make more money available to business and consumers at lower interest rates, but South Korea's heavily indebted banks are reluctant to issue more loans, given the global uncertainty exacerbated by Russia's collapse.

Lee also fears the government will pull back from its reforms as soon as it encounters a backlash from an increasingly antagonistic

corporate and public sector.

"The government should have pushed forward earlier even though there was resistance," he said. "The government is looking for short-term popularity." Things looked much brighter in January, when a newly elected Kim was able to broker a historic agreement among management, labor and the government that was viewed as an important first step down the road to reform.

Faced with the threat of national insolvency, South Korea's militant labor unions reluctantly agreed for the first time to support layoffs in times of severe economic stress.

In exchange, the five leading chaebol leaders pledged to dismantle their powerful empires, prune their unprofitable ventures, adopt international bookkeeping practices and use their private wealth to bolster their debt-laden companies. They represented the Samsung, Daewoo, Hyundai, LG and SK conglomerates.

That set the stage for a revision of laws last February that legalized the layoff of workers if the companies can prove they are in dire economic straits.

But translating paper laws into practice has been problematic.

Chaebol leaders, struggling to stay afloat in a deteriorating global economy and angered by the government's criticisms, have repeatedly delayed their promised restructuring plans, citing the difficulty of unraveling decades of complicated business arrangements.

In the meantime, these conglomerates have actually increased their influence in the South Korean economy because lenders are reluctant to provide money to anyone but the biggest names in South Korea.

For example, the top five chaebol accounted for 80% of the corporate bonds issued in the first seven months of the year, twice the percentage of last year.

This access to scarce capital has allowed them to outlast their smaller competitors, who are being strangled by interest rates as high as 18-20%. An estimated 2,000 to 3,000 small and medium-size companies are going out of business each month.

Rehabilitation of South Korea's debt-ridden financial sector—which is expected to cost the government at least \$3.7b—is also moving at a snail's pace. Those banks with money are fearful of lending it out, given the uncertain future of their major customers.

And weaker banks are falling further behind as their bad loans expand and they are forced to borrow more money to stay afloat.

Richard Samuelson, director of research for SBC Warburg Dillon Read Investment in Seoul, fears that Korea is following Japan down a path that will prolong the financial crisis by forcing strong banks to take on the problems of weak ones.

In June, the government closed five commercial banks and put seven others on conditional approval. Sixteen merchant banks and four leasing companies have also closed their doors.

But the government has announced that the assets of the five shuttered commercial banks, including their employees, will be taken over by healthier South Korean banks. The merged banks are under orders to slim down, but no plans have been announced.

One bright spot for South Korea has been its success in attracting investment from overseas in recent months, in part because the devaluation of the won made assets cheaper and the government lifted restrictions on foreign ownership.

Foreign investment has increased dramatically during the first seven months of this year, to \$3.7b. Foreign companies entering the market include Wal-Mart, Procter & Gamble, Volvo, Coca-Cola, Fuji Xerox and Seagram Co., with more than half of the foreign capital going into the manufacturing sector. (Los Angeles Times)

Shimon Dicks, export manager for Carmel, hovered outside the open entrance to the filtration room of the winery gazing in at the kippa-clad workers who eyed him curiously as they went about their business. He leaned forward a little, pointing out various pieces of high-tech machinery, then said, "We can't go in I'm afraid. I don't observe Shabbat."

This is wine-making—Israeli-style: State-of-the-art equipment that even top wineries in California lack, combined with millennia-old rules of kosher that distance non-observant Jews from the production process. There aren't many wineries around the world that can boast such contrast.

Carmel is Israel's oldest and largest producer of wines, brandies, grape juice and alcoholic beverages, selling over 31 million bottles a year. It holds over 50 percent of the local market share, selling products that target every pocket from cheap table wines to expensive Premier Cru labels, and produces some 65% of all the wine grapes grown in Israel.

Owned by private vineyards (75%), and the Jewish Agency (25%), the cooperative, which employs 300-320 full-time staff, saw sales of about \$55 million in 1997, a figure which could rise to \$75m this year.

Of this, 20% is exported to markets in North America, Europe, Russia, Australia and Japan. Some 70% of exports go to non-ethnic markets, and the rest to the Jewish market.

Carmel was founded in 1882 by Baron Edmond de Rothschild in response to an appeal for help from Jewish immigrants who had moved to Palestine from Czarist Russia and were unable to make a living there. Baron Rothschild, whose picture now looms omnisciently over the winery which is housed in lovely 19th century buildings in Rishon LeZion, decided that instead of just handing over money to the pioneers, he would help them build a top-notch winery.

It was a bold move. No grapes were grown in the Holy Land, a forlorn Ottoman province at the time, and the Baron had to start from scratch. He cleared fields for planting, brought in French rootstock, and sent over a team of his own specialists—agronomists, wine and barrel makers—to advise the settlers.

The first vineyards were planted near Rishon LeZion and a second winery was later established in Zichron Ya'akov, south of Haifa. In 1896, the first Carmel wines were presented at an exhibition in Berlin. Two years later they won a gold medal at the Paris World Fair. In 1906, the Baron gave the two wineries to the wine growers.

A wine of the times

Israel's oldest winery is adjusting to a new era of competition, elitism and globalism



MEIR ROTHEN © 98

In the years since then, Carmel's history has been one of constant change.

Initially the company flourished but at the end of World War I business nearly collapsed when the company lost its best markets—Russia due to the Bolshevik Revolution, the United States because of Prohibition and much of the Middle East because of Arab nationalism.

It would take more than two decades before business would once again flourish, first in the wake of World War II, which generated an economic boom in generally war-free Palestine, and then with the dramatic growth of the local population in the 1950s.

During this period the focus was on cheap sweet wines that were used for religious purposes.

While those developments brought with them quantitative changes, recent years have seen an industry-wide qualitative transformation, which has shaken loose Carmel's traditional line of products. Consumers increasingly sought quality wines—and were prepared to pay higher prices for them. Israeli wine drinkers soon followed suit and with the entry of the Golan Heights Winery, which successfully targeted the upscale market, Carmel found itself struggling with a huge surplus of wine.

"It was a difficult time," admits Carmel CEO and managing director Avraham

Ben-Moshe. "Carmel was in a crisis and prices fell."

In response Carmel began a process of reorganization. Until then farmers in Carmel's cooperative had been paid for the quantity of grapes they supplied to the winery, rather than the quality. There

was therefore no incentive to grow good grapes which needed more land and attention. Carmel was obliged to pay for all grapes brought to them by the farmers, a practice open to unscrupulous trading.

Then Carmel introduced a quota system and began testing the quality of the grapes. It also invested heavily in new technology, updated its fermentation techniques and introduced different varieties of grapes in an effort to improve the quality of its wines.

But the great transition in the wine market has yet to subside, and the local industry is increasingly following international trends, as it moves closer to the global marketplace, where demand for quality wines is consistently on the rise.

"It's not that Israelis are drinking more wine," says Ben-Moshe, "but for sure they're drinking better wine."

In the last few years this trend has even

seeped through to the religious population. "Most of them only use wine for the kiddush and in the past it was usually a sweet wine. Now there's a movement toward dry wines."

Ben-Moshe believes this trend is good for business. "It doesn't bring a real

increase in per capita consumption, but the direction is good for the development of the wine business in Israel and makes it easier for us to develop and export our products to do have markets for

wines which

Another development is that today's wine drinkers are opting for red rather than white varieties. In Japan for instance, a nation which, like Israel, does not consume a large quantity of wine, there has been a dramatic shift to red. For every one liter of white wine now sold, 10 liters of red are consumed. "This is quite unusual for Japan," says Ben-Moshe.

Marketing of wines has also changed. Traditionally in Israel wine was sold by small retailers, but today supermarket chains are playing an increasingly dominant role, echoing changes that have already taken place across Europe and North America.

ACCORDING to Ben-Moshe, Carmel is taking these changes in its stride. The crisis of the 1980s led the cooperative to seriously rethink its business at a pivotal moment. Unlike some of its competitors in Israel, Carmel has gradually been planting more varieties of red grapes, and today 65% of all Carmel's grapes are red varieties—some 5,500 dunams.

The winery has also continued to invest in new technology (\$2m. in 1996 alone), buying some of the most advanced machinery now on the market.

It has also set up experimental vineyards across the country in a bid to try out new varieties. One of the most successful is in the arid Arad area, where the climate rivals that of the best wine growing regions in California, with cool nights and dry, hot days. Grapes from this region, says Ben-Moshe, produce some of the best quality Merlot wines.

"We've made changes in vineyards, equipment and levels of education. We are confident that all these things will allow us to compete effectively. We'll do whatever is necessary to ensure that we continue to compete. If we don't make these changes, we won't keep up with the race," says Ben-Moshe.

He's right. At home the Golan Heights Winery, which is small by comparison but extremely popular, remains a worthy competitor in the field of good quality

wines. Other local wineries, such as Barkan, are also getting in on the act.

Hedging his bet, Ben-Moshe has initiated a process of diversification. "We don't want to be 100% in one market," says Ben-Moshe. "It's dangerous to put all your eggs in one basket."

Among the other products the company now offers are grape juice, wine vinegar and olive oil. "We are the largest local olive oil," says Ben-Moshe. "A recent addition to this list is a bio-organic olive oil."

Abroad, Carmel has tougher work ahead. Markets in the Far East and Russia are collapsing and no one yet knows what the ramifications will be.

Internationally, Carmel is also a very small brand name. "In order to compete globally we have to take on thousands upon thousands of products from all over the world," says Dicks. "We can only do that if we are offering value to the consumer. The leading wine producers are raising their standards all the time, in terms of quality, packaging and marketing. The only way we can continue to compete is by improving all these things at our winery."

Another uphill task is to convince customers to buy Israeli wines. "Israel is unfortunately not renowned as a wine growing country," acknowledges Dicks. "In some ways it's considered a specialty product. Unlike the big producers we have to work hard to get consumers to pick up a bottle for the first time. Once that has happened, some of the problems are over."

One advantage, however, is that supermarket chains abroad are interested in providing variety to their customers. "There's an interest in providing wine from Israel because it's a less well known supplier," says Dicks. "We are considered part of the New World when it comes to wines, and many people are now open to try new tastes. This helps us introduce our products."

"People don't realize that Israel produces wine," agrees Ben-Moshe. "They know about our oranges and our high-tech, but wine... that's not part of the equation."

Still, despite these difficulties both Dicks and Ben-Moshe remain confident. "We are in a better position than any other winery in Israel," says Ben-Moshe. "We've already made the switch from white to red grapes and are much more adapted to international and local needs for consuming wines."

"Our concern is that we sell all our wine, and right now we're doing just that," adds Dicks.

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KARAM
SMALL CAPITALIZATION
BASE ISSUES

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	LAST	CHANG
Incl.Debank CC 1	3180	-0.6
JCO Bank Pkaf	1810	0.9
Independence Mnt	10500	0
Indepacbank	788	0
Interbank 1	3540	0
Interbank 5	12570	0
Intergamma 5	1000	0
Iraqi Bps	4100	0
Israelco	255	0
Israelco 2	14600	0
Israel Leptingam Bond 3	45	+1.1
Israel Wira & Cables Bond G	-173.8	0
Israhel Bank	295	0
Israhel Bond B	295	0
Israhel Bond C	295	0.2
Israhel Bps	2.5	0
Israhel 1	7180	0
Israhel 2	26500	0
Israhel A	260	0
ISRA LINES	2240	-0.4
Iray	2580	0
Iray Bond 1	73.5	0
Iray Warsaw 1	338	0
Iray Warsaw 2	170	0
Irayco	102	+0.1
Jayway Bond A	707	0
JECO Bond A	107	0
Jerusalem	195	0
Jerusalem Mortgage Bond 16	105	0
JOBEL	85.5	4
JOBEL	66.2	0
JOBEL Bond 1A	122.5	0
JOBEL Bond 2	122.5	0
JOBEL Bond A	223	0
JOBEL Warsaw 3	73.5	0
Kadima	158.6	5.8
Kadoun	386	0
Kalica bond b	185	0
Kalica Warsaw 1	84.5	0
Kalra	1365	0
Kalra 2	73.5	+0.3
Kalkuk Warsaw 2	256	-1.6
Kanawar	104.2	0
Kand Bond G	194.2	0
Kampari	878	-0.2
Kamal Warsaw G	307	0
Kentco	307	0
Kerend Bond A	58.9	0
Kerend	105	0.8
Kerend 5	2310	4.8
Kiac	0	0
Kid Bond A	84	0
Kidem Chemicals	3690	0
Kidem Chemicals Bond 2	3690	0
Kenitex	325	0
Kesher	788	1.3
Kesher Bond A	788	0
Kesher	385	0
Kesher 2	18	0
Kind Bond A	0	0
King	278	0.5
Kislev	177	0
Kosch Kaur	195	0
Krafka Tefels	150	1.9
Krai Bond A	215.0	0
Krai Bond B	113.0	0
KRI Ind 5	7020	0
Koor Bond 5	724	0.3
Korbel Bond 1	247	0
La Nationale Bond A	1	0
La National	2530	0
Lachash	2530	5.9
Lafayette	51	0
Lapida Oil Exploration	1	0
Lapida Oil Explorers	75.5	0
Lavie	105	0
Laviv	851	3.2
Laznick Blok	151.5	-1
Laznick Commercial Centres Bond 126	126	0
Laznick Block	100	0
Laznick Industrial Blags Bond A	142	0
Leader Warsaw 2	142	0
Leumi RA	1	0
Leventhal	550	-8.1
Libi Bond A	135	0
Libi Bond B	61	0
Libi Warsaw 2	61	-0.2
Levinston Bond	95.9	0
Levinston Warsaw 2	95.9	1.3
Limet	105	0
Livnat	105	-1.5
Luhle 1	186	0
Luhle 5	250	0
Luzon	105	10.4
Luzon Bond 1	151.5	0
Luzprange 1	105	-0.4
LUSS	244	-0.4
Lymam	2580	0
Lypok	2510	0
Lyzak Bond A	170.5	0
Lyzak Bond A	170.5	0
Lyzak 1	1316	1.2
Lyzak 2	1316	0
Lyzak Gold Bond 1	1316	-0.4
Lyme	277.0	0
M&O	37.0	0
M&V Bank Bond A	134.6	0.1
Macabron	489	0
Macdonell	489	0
Macpell Bond 2	-341	0
Macpell Bond 3	341	0
Macpell Bond C	77	0
Macpell Warsaw 3	341	-0.4
Magnum	119	0
Magnum Bond A	151.5	0
Magnum Bond B	151.5	0
Magnum	40.4	0
Major 5	2070	0
Major Heds. Bond B	13.2	1.2
Major Heds. Warsaw 2	152	0
Mali	30	0
Mallbu	0	0
Mallbu Bond B	0	0
Malin	77	0
Mali Bond A	216	0
Manur	20.7	0
Marathon insured	105.1	1.1
Maria Laznick Constc. Bond 1	184	0
Maria Laznick Constc. Bond 2	184	0
Martine Bank Bond A	134.6	1.9
Martine Bank Bond B	134.6	0
Maslow	500	2.2
Maslow	329	0
Maslow	161	0
Maslow Warsaw 1	1030	0
Mazema 1	1030	0
Mazema 5	1030	0
Mazgry	770	0
Med Hotels	155	0.2
Medinvest	355	0
Mediaschona Bond A	136.8	0
Mediaschona	54.3	-1.3
Mediaschona Warsaw 2	120	0
Mediaschona Warsaw 2	120	0
Mediaschona Hotels Bond A	46.8	0
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Woolman 5	2900	0
Woolston	65600	0
Yola	585	0
Yonah	585	0
Yonah Bond A	171.5	0
Yonah Bond B	202	0
Yonah Bond C	202	0
Yonah Bond D	202	0
Yonah Bond E	202	0
Yonah Bond F	202	0
Yonah Bond G	202	0
Yonah Bond H	202	0
Yonah Bond I	202	0
Yonah Bond J	202	0
Yonah Bond K	202	0
Yonah Bond L	202	0
Yonah Bond M	202	0
Yonah Bond N	202	0
Yonah Bond O	202	0
Yonah Bond P	202	0
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Yonah Bond R	202	0
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Yonah Bond AA	202	0
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Yonah Bond DD	202	0
Yonah Bond DE	202	0
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Yonah Bond DH	202	0
Yonah Bond DI	202	0
Yonah Bond DJ	202	0
Yonah Bond DK	202	0
Yonah Bond DL	202	0
Yonah Bond DM	202	0
Yonah Bond DN	202	0
Yonah Bond DO	202	0
Yonah Bond DP	202	0
Yonah Bond DQ	202	0
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Yonah Bond EF	202	0

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Wall Street

Stocks rose sharply yesterday, extending Friday's rally, as a week began with small gains toward addressing the economic crises overseas.

The Dow Jones industrial average finished 149.85 points — or 1.9 percent — higher at 7,945.37 after rising by as much as 24 points on top of Friday's 180-point gain.

While the two-session advance lifted the Dow back above its 1993 starting point, 7,908.25, the blue-chip barometer still sits about 1,300 points, or 14%, below the July 1997 peak of 9,337.97.

Broader stock indicators also extended Friday's rally amid some encouraging developments overseas and a continuing sense of relief that Kenneth Starr's report on US President Bill Clinton produced no major revelations about matters other than Monica Lewinsky.

European markets rallied as officials from the world's top industrialized nations, meeting in London, to discuss Russia's financial crisis said they would insist on continuing economic reforms as a condition for aid.

Meanwhile, in a speech in New York, Clinton said he has asked Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin and Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan to meet with their counterparts from other leading nations to coordinate a strategy against the "biggest financial challenge facing the world in a half-century."

(AP)

Sill, he said, "the pace of easing may take longer than the world economy needs, or the financial markets expect."

Lower rates would likely undermine demand for the dollar by lowering the money-market return on deposits denominated in it.

Troubles in Brazil - Latin America's largest economy - are of particular concern. The country is struggling to stem an exit of capital that's surpassing \$1 billion a day and sent the country's Bovespa stock index tumbling more than 13% last week.

Senior officials from the Group of Seven industrial nations are meeting in London for a "brainstorming" session on the economic crisis in Russia, which touched off the recent trouble in Brazil and other emerging markets after it defaulted on its debt.

(Bloomberg)

lar rises

as much as \$35 to \$1,600 a metric ton on the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange.

Sugar for October delivery rose as much as 0.12 cent, or 1.7%, to 7.22 cents a pound on the Coffee, Sugar and Cocoa Exchange in New York.

Consumer demand for sugar is expected to climb, after prices sank to their lowest in 11 years last week. Still, supplies of sugar from bumper harvests in Brazil and Europe are ample, which could curb some of the price gains.

(Bloomberg)

Robert Rubin will testify tomorrow to the House Banking on the global economic turmoil, and may offer clues about their views on the need for a rate cut.

Greenspan fanned speculation about a possible cut in interest rates earlier this month, when he indicated the central bank is prepared to lower interest rates if necessary. The Bank of Japan's decision to cut rates boosted speculation the Fed will reduce rates as soon as September 29.

Even so, with yields on Treasuries of all maturities now below the 5.5% fed funds target, some investors said further gains may be hard to achieve without at least one rate cut. (Bloomberg)

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Gottesdiner Foundation Israel Prize
winner, Yoav Shmueli. From the
Cyban of Chiruses to Virtual
Reality: The Museum - Past, Present
and Future. "A Point of View" - children's
exhibition. "The Eyes of the
Nation." Visual Art in a Country
Without Boundaries. Political aspects
of Israeli art of the Seventies. "The
Boundaries of Language" - Anatomy
of language in the Visual arts. HELF-
RA RUBINSTEIN PAVILION FOR
CONTEMPORARY ART. 10 a.m.-5
p.m. Tue.-10 a.m.-10 p.m. Fri. Sat. 10
a.m.-10 p.m. Meyerhoff Art Education

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IOC officials alarmed at McGwire's use of androstenedione

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The IOC plans to lobby baseball and other US professional sports to conform with the Olympics' drug policy, which includes a ban on the muscle-building compound used by slugger Mark McGwire.

International Olympic Committee medical director Patrick Schamasch confirmed yesterday that he would meet with Major League Baseball officials to encourage them to adopt the IOC's list of banned substances.

"I don't want to focus on one substance, but I will say, 'Let's harmonize the list,'" Schamasch said.

McGwire, who hit his 62nd home run last week to break Roger Maris' single-season record, has acknowledged that he has used the performance-enhancing supplement androstenedione for the past year.

Andro, as it is popularly known, was added to the IOC's banned list last year under the category of anabolic androgenic steroids.

Androstenedione is classified as a "precursor" to testosterone, the male hormone. The

product is converted to testosterone in the body, helping build muscle mass and speed recovery from workouts.

While andro is also banned in US collegiate sports, the NFL and many international federations, it is not prohibited by Major League Baseball.

Androstenedione is sold over the counter in the US as a dietary supplement.

McGwire has denied doing anything wrong, saying andro was perfectly safe and legal and used by many other players in the league.

But IOC officials, gathered in Seoul for executive board meetings, said the use of andro should be prohibited in all sports.

Anita DeFranz, who as IOC vice president is the highest-ranking American in the Olympic movement, said she was worried about the moral example set by McGwire.

"I care about kids," she said. "In my working life, I serve youth through sports. I worry children will think, 'OK, here's how you break all the records.' What they don't know is how hard you still have to work."

"We never see people training, we see them competing. I hope Mr. McGwire will talk about the hours he spends in the weight training rooms as well as perfecting his skills on the field of play. Just taking pills doesn't make a superb athlete. It's the other work."

Since news of McGwire's use of andro became public, sales of the supplement have reportedly soared in the US.

DeFranz said she had concerns about the long-term health effects of andro.

"The scary part is we don't know what it does to you," she said. "It's not regulated. It's not considered anything the FDA regulates. I don't want kids to be taking this stuff, or adults."

We don't know how people react to it. That's scary." Under IOC rules, McGwire would be considered a drug cheat and kicked out of the Olympics if he tested positive for andro at the games.

"I think the message is wrong," said Jacques Rogge, vice president of the IOC medical commission. "I think every sport, whether

professional or amateur, should make rules that stop athletes from taking doping agents. It's a matter of the credibility and image of the sport."

Schamasch expressed confidence that baseball will eventually ban androstenedione.

He said he will also meet with officials of other US professional sports, including the NBA, NFL and NHL, to encourage them to follow the IOC's drug rules.

DeFranz noted that IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch has criticized US professional leagues for not doing enough to crack down on steroids and other performance-enhancing drugs.

She said pro sports are concerned primarily with entertainment while in the Olympics, athletes take an oath to compete with integrity.

"I don't think (pro athletes) do that," DeFranz said.

"The mission is to entertain. It's a set of ethical issues people in professional sports in the US need to address. They need to really consider what they're asking of their athletes."

SPORTS

in brief

Lawn bowls

The Ra'anana team of Colin Silberstein, Len Averbuch, Helen Gordon and Hadassah Fisher recorded their second successive annual National Mixed Fours win when they beat their clubmates, Harris Green, Lionel and Annette Samuelsohn, and Dennis Galland 23-18 at the Netanya club.

At one stage it looked like a one-sided win for Silberstein's team when they led 15-5 at the halfway mark after scoring three successive threes, mainly due to excellent conversion shots by skip Silberstein.

But Green's team narrowed the gap to 15-9, only to forfeit an unfortunate five when Green sliced the Jack to his opponents' bowls.

Trailing 20-9 Green and his team members fought grimly, equalizing the accurate bowling of their opponents and closed the gap to 21-17 with two heads to be played.

At 21-18 in the final head Green's front rankers had their four bowls around the Jack but Helen Gordon with an excellent bowl split the head to lie the shot and drew in a second which left the final score 23-18.

Norman Spiro

Sugar rejects offer for Tottenham stake

LONDON (Reuters) — British sports and leisure group ENIC Plc said yesterday it had been in takeover talks with English premier league Tottenham Hotspur, but they had come to nothing.

ENIC said Tottenham chairman Alan Sugar had approached ENIC to consider buying his 40.88 percent stake for 80 pence a share, but Sugar subsequently indicated he did not want to continue with the deal.

Earlier Tottenham said ENIC had made the proposal to buy Sugar's stake and that Sugar had rejected it.

ENIC already has widespread interests in European soccer and has long been tipped as a potential buyer of an English club.

Celtic shareholders give Brown torrid time

GLASGOW (Reuters) — Celtic's general manager Jock Brown faces an uncertain future after being given a hostile reception by the club's shareholders yesterday.

A large section of the 4,000 shareholders who attended the Scottish champions' annual general meeting at Celtic Park jeered Brown when he took the stage to make his annual report.

Fans of the Glasgow club are unhappy about Brown's lack of progress in the transfer market after Celtic fail to spend anything on new players during the close season.

Celtic chairman Fergus McCann told the shareholders during the torrid three-hour meeting that money is available to coach Jozef Venglos but that the club would not be rushed into making a signing just to get the right sort of headlines.

Passion, excellence set Commonwealth Games on fire

KUALA LUMPUR (Reuters) — The Commonwealth Games caught fire yesterday, with a succession of thrillers in the pool and a cliff-hanging cricket win for Sri Lanka.

Some great swimming races, dominated as usual by the Australians, along with major shocks on the badminton court and the hockey field, threw passion and excellence in the face of critics who were carping about second-rate competition.

And there was a looming track showdown that could decide the fastest man on earth to push away a thought that the 68-year-old Games were fading into irrelevance in a sporting world where money, not national pride, is the driving force.

Thursday's 100 meters final will

undoubtedly feature Ado Bolon of Trinidad and Tobago and Obadele Thompson of Barbados, the two fastest men in the world this year, runners passionately seeking one of the most sought-after world records in athletics.

The sprint drama could become even more intense if Namibian double Olympic silver medalist Frankie Fredericks makes it to Kuala Lumpur in time for the 100 meters heats tomorrow after changing his mind about shunning the Games.

During the wait for the showdown, there was excitement aplenty in Kuala Lumpur on the coast trails of the stunning world record set in the pool on Sunday by the Australian 4x200 meters freestyle team.

Australia swept up another haul

of swimming gold medals and under strength world cricket champions Sri Lanka just edged out Zimbabwe, who brought their best men to Malaysia, to move into the semi-finals.

The other three semi-finalists will be decided today and their matches will have to be good to beat the Sri Lankans for excitement as they ousted Zimbabwe by one wicket.

India's men produced their finest badminton performance in a major competition with a 3-2 win over previously unbeaten England as 19-year-old Abhinavjit Singh Gupta won a heart-stopping final match.

The Indians missed out on the gold, but there was utter delight across the host nation as that medal went to Malaysia.

The women's badminton gold went to England, with Malaysia taking silver and India the bronze.

South Africa produced the first shock of the men's hockey tournament by defeating favorites Australia 3-2.

But there was plenty of solace for the Australians in the pool as by far the most powerful team at the Games of 70 nations and more than 4,200 athletes from Anguilla to Zimbabwe sent a succession of men and women to the podium to claim gold medals.

By far the most relieved of them was Michael Klim, the star of January's world championships in Perth, who had a poor Games — despite anchoring the world record squad — until yesterday.

"I had a pretty simple strategy — just to go out and enjoy myself and swim like I owned the race," the shaven-headed 21-year-old said after winning the 100 meters freestyle.

The prize for most trips to the podium looks like going to team mate Susie O'Neill, who now has won four golds and a silver — and still has her two favourite events in the 100 and 200 meters butterfly to come.

She collected gold in the 400 meters freestyle with a brave win over England's little-known Vicki Homer, then added another as a member of the victorious 4x100 meters freestyle relay team.

The Australian swimmers have now won 12 golds in 15 events in the opening days of Games.

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Broncos run roughshod over Cowboys

Manning rocked again, outdueled by Bledsoe



DENVER (AP) — Terrell Davis ran for 191 yards and three touchdowns as the Denver Broncos roughed up the Dallas Cowboys, 42-23 on Sunday. Dallas lost quarterback Troy Aikman for 4-8 weeks with a broken left collarbone.

John Elway threw for 268 yards and two touchdowns and ran for another score for the Broncos (2-0) before leaving in the fourth quarter with an injury to his right hamstring.

The Cowboys (1-1) lost Aikman midway through the second quarter when he scrambled for a 6-yard gain, was hit by three defenders and left the field holding his left shoulder.

Patriots 29, Colts 6
Peyton Manning threw three interceptions and fumbled — giving him seven turnovers for the season — and remained winless in his two pro games as New England rolled to a home win.

Manning's four-year football education at Tennessee didn't keep him from throwing two interceptions to Ty Law, one for a 59-yard touchdown, and losing a fumble, leading to 13 points as the Patriots (1-1) led 16-0 at halftime.

Any doubt they would falter faded when Drew Bledsoe, the top pick five years earlier, threw a 3-yard touchdown pass to Terry Glenn on New England's first series of the third quarter.

Jaguars 21, Chiefs 16
Reggie Barlow scored on an 85-yard punt return and Tavian Banks had a 65-yard kickoff return to set up another score as Jacksonville won at home.

James Stewart gained 103 yards on 26 carries to become the first back to record consecutive 100-yard rushing games for the Jaguars (2-0).

The game was built up as a potential preview of the AFC Championship game, but both teams came in with many injuries, most notably on the Jaguars' defensive line and with the Chiefs' (1-1) missing Elvis Grbac and Andre Rison.

Dolphins 13, Bills 7
Host Miami sacked Rob Johnson eight times, limited Buffalo to 87 yards and won a defensive struggle.

Trace Armstrong, Jason Taylor and rookie Lorenzo Brownell had two sacks apiece to lead the charge for Miami. Their sack total

was one shy of the team record set in 1973.

Dan Marino threw for the Dolphins' only touchdown, a 17-yarder to Lamar Thomas, and Olindo Mare kicked field goals of 33 and 27 yards. Miami improved to 2-0, while Buffalo fell to 0-2.

Saints 19, Panthers 14
Danny Wuerffel, given a chance to start when Billy Joe Hobert was knocked out for the season last week, shook off constant pressure and led host New Orleans to its first 2-0 start since 1993.

Doug Brien kicked two long field goals to get the Saints close, and they scored the winning touchdown with 9:15 left on a 15-yard run by Ray Zeller.

Wuerffel, sacked seven times by the Panthers last season in his NFL debut, found the going almost as rough Sunday. But the pressure did not rattle the 1996 Heisman Trophy winner as he completed 13 of 18 passes for 145 yards and a touchdown. He also rushed for 40 yards as he dodged Carolina's (0-2) defenders.

Bengals 34, Lions 28 (OT)
Corey Sawyer intercepted Scott Mitchell's pass to Johnnie Morton on the fourth play of overtime and returned it 53 yards for a touchdown as Cincinnati won on the road.

The win was a great relief for the Bengals (1-1) who wanted desperately to get off to a good start. Since 1991, the Bengals have gone 9-48 in the first half of the season. Last season, they won their opener but lost their next seven.

Barry Sanders, who rushed for 185 yards and three touchdowns for the Lions (0-2), tied the game at 28 on a 5-yard scamper with 1:52 left in the fourth quarter.

Vikings 38, Rams 31
Randall Cunningham, subbing for injured Brad Johnson, threw a 19-yard touchdown pass to Chris Carter with 2:09 left to lift Minnesota to an away win.

The Rams (0-2) almost tied it on the final play when quarterback Tony Banks dived for the end zone following an 8-yard scramble, but he was stopped less than a yard away.

Seahawks 33, Cardinals 14
Willie Williams and Shawn Springs returned interceptions for touchdowns and Ricky Watters had his first 100-yard rushing game for host Seattle.

In going 2-0 to open the season for the first time since 1994, the Seahawks have outscored their first two opponents 71-14. Seattle won 38-0 in Philadelphia last Sunday.



SACKED — Colts' rookie QB Peyton Manning fumbles while being sacked by Patriots' DE Willie McGinest (55). The fumble, at the Indianapolis 10-yard line, set up New England's first score.

Watters, the former Eagles' running back who was lured to Seattle by owner Paul Allen's money, gained 105 yards on 22 carries. Williams and Springs sparked for a defense that sacked Cardinals QB Jake Plummer seven times.

Raiders 20, Giants 17
Greg Davis kicked a 26-yard field goal with 1:59 remaining as host Oakland gave new coach Jon Gruden his first win in a penalty-plagued game.

Oakland's Eric Turner sacked Danny Kanell for an 11-yard loss and then intercepted his fourth-down pass to end the final possession for the Giants.

The Raiders got an 80-yard touchdown run from Napoleon Kaufman on the first play from scrimmage.

Ravens 24, Jets 10
Rod Woodson had two interceptions, returning the second 60 yards for the clinching touchdown, and Jermaine Lewis went 69 yards on a punt return to lead Baltimore to a road win.

Steelers 17, Bears 12
Jerome Bettis ran for 131 yards

and a touchdown to lead the Steelers (2-0) over the Chicago Bears.

Chargers 13, Oilers 7
Ryan Leaf set up San Diego's only touchdown with a 20-yard scramble, and John Carney kicked two field goals as the Chargers spoiled Tennessee's first regular-season game in their new home.

Packers 23, Buccaneers 15
Reggie White got three sacks and led a pass rush that harassed Trent Dilfer all day as Green Bay won its 29th straight home game.

White, who retired briefly in the offseason, increased his record sacks total to 179½.

Falcons 17, Eagles 12
Rebounding from a dismal first half, host Atlanta scored on its first two possessions of the third quarter and improved to 2-0 for the first time since 1986.

The Eagles are 0-2 for the first time in eight years.

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N.Y. Giants 1 1 0 .500 49 49

Washington 0 1 0 .000 24 31

Arizona 0 2 0 .000 24 71

Blue Jays closing in on faltering Red Sox

NEW YORK (AP) — The Blue Jays have been spoiling a lot of people's fun lately, and Sunday they wrecked what David Cone hoped would be a big day.

Cone, bidding for his first 20-win season in 10 years, was stymied as Toronto rallied for a 5-3 win over the New York Yankees and moved within three games of Boston in the AL wild-card race.

Toronto took three of four from the AL East champion Yankees, and with their 14th win in 16 games, the Blue Jays are as close to the Red Sox as they've been since May 30.

New York, meanwhile, continued its late-season slide. The Yankees are 5-8 in their last 13 and

11-14 in their last 25 games. Derek Jeter drove in two runs for New York.

Tigers 4, Red Sox 1
Not even Steve Avery's turn in the rotation could end host Boston's slide, with Tony Clark's tie-breaking three-run homer leading Detroit.

The loss was Boston's eighth in 10 games, with the only two wins coming on days Avery has started. The Red Sox were 14-0 in games that Avery had gone at least five innings.

During their recent slide, the Red Sox have struggled in one-run games, going 1-5, and seen their wild-card lead over Toronto cut to its slimmest margin since May 30.

Indians 6, White Sox 3
Richie Sexson hit a two-out, three-run homer in the bottom of the eighth inning as Cleveland avoided a sweep.

Sparked by a second day of brushback wars and a bench-clearing brawl, the Indians scored two runs in the seventh and three in the eighth to reduce their magic number for clinching a fourth straight AL Central title to four.

Devil Rays 10, Rangers 5
Host Tampa Bay took two of three games from Texas, which remained one game behind division-leading Anaheim in the AL West after the Angels' 12-7 loss to Baltimore.

Juan Gonzalez of the Rangers became the first AL player since 1949 to reach 150 RBIs in a season, hitting his 42nd homer, a two-

run shot in the third inning. That raised his total to 151 RBIs, the most since Vern Stephens and Ted Williams each drove in 159 in 1949.

Orioles 12, Angels 7
Rafael Palmeiro had three hits and drove in the go-ahead run as host Baltimore squandered a six-run lead before completing a three-game sweep.

Athletics 9, Twins 6 (12)
Ben Grieve hit a three-run homer off Rick Aguilera (3-8) in the top of the 12th as Oakland finished off a three-game sweep.

Mariners-Royals pp
Seattle and host Kansas City was canceled because of rain.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Cubs 11, Brewers 10 (10)
Sammy Sosa tied Mark McGwire for the home run record,

connecting twice to raise his total to 62 in Chicago's 10-inning home victory (Reported in yesterday's edition).

Mets 1, Expos 0
Brian Rhee threw out Shane Andrews at home to end the game and doubled in the only run. Willie Blair (5-16) and two relievers combined on a four-hitter as New York grabbed a road win.

Giants 4, Rockies 3
Barry Bonds erased a 3-1 deficit when he hit a three-run homer off long-time nemesis Chuck McElroy (6-4) in the bottom of the eighth inning. Bonds had been just 1-for-29 against the pitcher.

San Francisco, which stopped Colorado's seven-game winning streak, remained 3½ games behind Chicago in the NL wild-card race.

Diamondbacks 5, Reds 0
Andy Benes' bid to pitch Arizona's first no-hitter was broken up by one out in the bottom of the ninth on rookie Sean Casey's single.

Benes (13-13), trying to pitch the first no-hitter for an expansion team since Montreal's Bill

Stoneman against Philadelphia in 1969, allowed the one hit in 8½ innings, struck out six and walked five. Gregg Olson got the last two outs for his 28th save.

Phillies 4, Pirates 1
Bobby Abreu broke a tie with a two-run, upper-deck homer to right field and Paul Byrd (4-2) allowed three hits in seven innings for host Philadelphia.

Cardinals 3, Astros 2
With Mark McGwire already out of the game, visiting St. Louis prevented Houston from clinching its second straight NL West title.

McGwire went 0-for-2 and left with minor back spasms after four innings.

Dodgers 5, Padres 4
A day after host San Diego clinched the NL West, Bobby Bonilla hit a go-ahead sacrifice fly in the 10th off Donnie Wall (5-4).

Marlins 6, Braves 5
Jesus Sanchez (7-8) struck out a career-high 10 in seven-plus innings as visiting Florida prevented Atlanta from clinching its seventh straight National League East title.

FSU falls from Top 10

NEW YORK (AP) — Whenever Florida State loses, there's bound to be a shakeup in The AP's Top 25 college football poll.

This time, it was a biggie. The Seminoles, who have finished the past 11 seasons ranked among the first four, were soundly beaten by North Carolina State, 24-7 on Saturday and tumbled from No. 1 to No. 11 in this week's poll.

It's Florida State's lowest ranking since a No. 12 showing in November, 1990.

Three other highly ranked teams lost, and each took mighty tumbles — Notre Dame dropped 13 spots to No. 23 after a 45-23 loss to Michigan State, and both Michigan and Arizona State lost again and fell out of the Top 25.

Syracuse beat the defending national champion Wolverines 38-28, and Brigham Young defeated Arizona State 26-6. Michigan opened the season at No. 5 and fell to No. 13 last week after a season-opening loss to Notre Dame. Arizona State dropped out from the No. 14 ranking.

The shakeup allowed Ohio State to strengthen its hold on the No. 1 spot. The Buckeyes, 49-0 winners over Toledo, received 57 ½ place votes and 1,733 points Sunday from the 70 writers and broadcasters on the panel.

Florida, which beat Northeast Louisiana 42-10, moved up a spot to No. 2 with nine first-place votes and 1,625 points, while Nebraska improved to No. 3 with one first-place vote and 1,581 points after its 24-3 win over California.

UCLA, a 49-31 winner over Texas, improved two spots to No. 4 with a first-place vote and 1,527 points, followed by No. 5 Kansas State (two first-place votes and 1,466 points).

Tennessee was No. 6, followed by LSU, Penn State, Washington and Virginia. The Bruins jumped ahead of Kansas State, which beat Northern Illinois 73-7.

Florida State was 11th, followed by Georgia, Syracuse, Wisconsin, Colorado, Arizona, Texas A&M, Southern California, West Virginia, North Carolina State, Missouri, Oregon, Notre Dame, Alabama and Mississippi State.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

BATTING—Williams, New York, .338; M Vaughn, Boston, .330; Jeter, New York, .328; Rodriguez, Texas, .326; Garciaparra, Boston, .321; T Walker, Minnesota, .318; J Gonzalez, Texas, .318.

RUNS—Jeter, New York, 120; Durham, Chicago, 113; A Rodriguez, Seattle, 112; Griffey Jr., Seattle, 110; Kiehl, New York, 109; Edmonds, Anaheim, 108; J Velez, Toronto, 106.

RBI—J Gonzalez, Texas, 151; Belle, Chicago, 132; Griffey Jr., Seattle, 127; Ramirez, Cleveland, 123; R Palmeiro, Baltimore, 117; Martinez, New York, 115; A Rodriguez, Seattle, 114.

HITS—A Rodriguez, Seattle, 192; Jeter, New York, 187; M Vaughn, Boston, 180; O'Neill, New York, 180; Garciaparra, Boston, 176; O Rourke, Kansas City, 176; J Gonzalez, Texas, 176; Belle, Chicago, 174.

HOME RUNS—Griffey Jr., Seattle, 51; Belle, Chicago, 45; J Gonzalez, Texas, 42; R Palmeiro, Baltimore, 42; Caruso, Toronto, 42; A Rodriguez, Seattle, 39; M Ramirez, Cleveland, 37.

STOLEN BASES—Henderson, Oakland, 60; Lofton, Cleveland, 53; Stewart, Toronto, 46; A Rodriguez, Seattle, 42; O Rourke, Kansas City, 40; B Hunter, Detroit, 38; Nixon, Minnesota, 35.

PITCHING (7 Decisions)—D Wells, New York, 17-4, 810, 3.35; P Martinez, Boston, 18-5, 783, 2.74; Cone, New York, 19-6, 780, 3.52; Gomez, Toronto, 18-6, 750, 2.69; Helling, Texas, 19-7, 731, 4.30; Rogers, Oakland, 14-7, 667, 3.03; Wakefield, Boston, 15-6, 652, 4.71.

STRUCK OUTS—Clemens, Toronto, 234; P Martinez, Boston, 227; R Johnson, Seattle, 213; C Fley, Anaheim, 198; Cone, New York, 198; Erickson, Baltimore, 169; Saunders, Tampa Bay, 162.

SAVES—Gordon, Boston, 40; Perchal, Anaheim, 39; Wetteland, Texas, 39; M Jackson, Cleveland, 38; Aguilera, Minnesota, 36; M Rivera, New York, 35; J Montgomery, Kansas City, 33.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

BATTING—Walker, Colorado, .357; O Rourke, New York, .342; Bichette, Colorado, .341; Ciriello, Milwaukee, .331; Kendall, Pittsburgh, .329; Biggio, Houston, .328; Castille, Colorado, .326.

RUNS—Sosa, Chicago, 123; Biggio, Houston, 120; Bagwell, Houston, 118; McGwire, St. Louis, 118; Ciriello, Atlanta, 116; G Vaughn, San Diego, 108; Rolen, Philadelphia, 107; U Llaheer, Colorado, 107.

RBI—Sosa, Chicago, 148; Castille, Colorado, 137; McGwire, St. Louis, 129; A Lou, Houston, 122; Burnitz, Milwaukee, 120; Bichette, Colorado, 119; G Vaughn, Atlanta, 116.

HITS—Bichette, Colorado, 212; Biggio, Houston, 197; Castille, Colorado, 196; V Guerrero, Montreal, 187; DeBell, Houston, 185; Sosa, Chicago, 185; O Rourke, Milwaukee, 183.

HOME RUNS—Sosa, Chicago, 62; McGwire, St. Louis, 62; G Vaughn, San Diego, 48; Castille, Colorado, 42; G Vaughn, Atlanta, 43; A Lou, Houston, 38; V Guerrero, Montreal, 37.

STOLEN BASES—Womack, Pittsburgh, 52; Biggio, Houston, 47; E Chong, Los Angeles, 42; Renteria, Florida, 40; Floyd, Florida, 27; A Jones, Atlanta, 25; O Rourke, San Diego, 24; Bonds, San Francisco, 24.

PITCHING (7 Decisions)—Smoot, Atlanta, 15-3, 833, 3.10; A Leter, New York, 15-5, 750, 2.40; Givone, Atlanta, 15-6, 750, 2.62; K Brown, San Diego, 18-5, 750, 2.36; Tapani, Chicago, 18-7, 720, 4.70; Gardner, San Francisco, 12-4, 706, 4.46; Reynolds, Houston, 18-8, 692, 3.72.

STRUCK OUTS—Schilling, Philadelphia, 272; K Brown, San Diego, 238; Wood, Chicago, 233; Givone, Atlanta, 192; Reynolds, Houston, 190; Park, Los Angeles, 170; Dreifort, Los Angeles, 165.

SAVES—Hoffman, San Diego, 49; Beck, Chicago, 46; Shaw, Los Angeles, 43; Nen, San Francisco, 38; J Franco, New York, 36; Urbina, Montreal, 31; B Wagner, Houston, 29.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

BATTING—Williams, New York, .338; M Vaughn, Boston, .330; Jeter, New York, .328; Rodriguez, Texas, .326; Garciaparra, Boston, .321; T Walker, Minnesota, .318; J Gonzalez, Texas, .318.

RUNS—Jeter, New York, 120; Durham, Chicago, 113; A Rodriguez, Seattle, 112; Griffey Jr., Seattle, 110; Kiehl, New York, 109; Edmonds, Anaheim, 108; J Velez, Toronto, 106.

RBI—J Gonzalez, Texas, 151; Belle, Chicago, 132; Griffey Jr., Seattle, 127; Ramirez, Cleveland, 123; R Palmeiro, Baltimore, 117; Martinez, New York, 115; A Rodriguez, Seattle, 114.

HITS—A Rodriguez, Seattle, 192; Jeter, New York, 187; M Vaughn, Boston, 180; O'Neill, New York, 180; Garciaparra, Boston, 176; O Rourke, Kansas City, 176; J Gonzalez, Texas, 176; Belle, Chicago, 174.

HOME RUNS—Griffey Jr., Seattle, 51; Belle, Chicago, 45; J Gonzalez, Texas, 42; R Palmeiro, Baltimore, 42; Caruso, Toronto, 42; A Rodriguez, Seattle, 39; M Ramirez, Cleveland, 37.

STOLEN BASES—Henderson, Oakland, 60; Lofton, Cleveland, 53; Stewart, Toronto, 46; A Rodriguez, Seattle, 42; O Rourke, Kansas City, 40; B Hunter, Detroit, 38; Nixon, Minnesota, 35.

PITCHING (7 Decisions)—D Wells, New York, 17-4, 810, 3.35; P Martinez, Boston, 18-5, 783, 2.74; Cone, New York, 19-6, 780, 3.52; Gomez, Toronto, 18-6, 750, 2.69; Helling, Texas, 19-7, 731, 4.30; Rogers, Oakland, 14-7, 667, 3.03; Wakefield, Boston, 15-6, 652, 4.71.

STRUCK OUTS—Clemens, Toronto, 234; P Martinez, Boston, 227; R Johnson, Seattle, 213; C Fley, Anaheim, 198; Cone, New York, 198; Erickson, Baltimore, 169; Saunders, Tampa Bay, 162.

SAVES—Gordon, Boston, 40; Perchal, Anaheim, 39; Wetteland, Texas, 39; M Jackson, Cleveland, 38; Aguilera, Minnesota, 36; M Rivera, New York, 35; J Montgomery, Kansas City, 33.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

BATTING—Walker, Colorado, .357; O Rourke, New York, .342; Bichette, Colorado, .341; Ciriello, Milwaukee, .331; Kendall, Pittsburgh, .329; Biggio, Houston, .328; Castille, Colorado, .326.

RUNS—Sosa, Chicago, 123; Biggio, Houston, 120; Bagwell, Houston, 118; McGwire, St. Louis, 118; Ciriello, Atlanta, 116; G Vaughn, San Diego, 108; Rolen, Philadelphia, 107; U Llaheer, Colorado, 107.

RBI—Sosa, Chicago, 148; Castille, Colorado, 137; McGwire, St. Louis, 129; A Lou, Houston, 122; Burnitz, Milwaukee, 120; Bichette, Colorado, 119; G Vaughn, Atlanta, 116.

HITS—Bichette, Colorado, 212; Biggio, Houston, 197; Castille, Colorado, 196; V Guerrero, Montreal, 187; DeBell, Houston, 185; Sosa, Chicago, 185; O Rourke, Milwaukee, 183.

HOME RUNS—Sosa, Chicago, 62; McGwire, St. Louis, 62; G Vaughn, San Diego, 48; Castille, Colorado, 42; G Vaughn, Atlanta, 43; A Lou, Houston, 38; V Guerrero, Montreal, 37.

STOLEN BASES—Womack, Pittsburgh, 52; Biggio, Houston, 47; E Chong, Los Angeles, 42; Renteria, Florida, 40; Floyd, Florida, 27; A Jones, Atlanta, 25; O Rourke, San Diego, 24; Bonds, San Francisco, 24.


PITCHING (7 Decisions)—Smoot, Atlanta, 15-3, 833, 3.10; A Leter, New York, 15-5, 750, 2.40; Givone, Atlanta, 15-6, 750, 2.62; K Brown, San Diego, 18-5, 750, 2.36; Tapani, Chicago, 18-7, 720, 4.70; Gardner, San Francisco, 12-4, 706, 4.46; Reynolds, Houston, 18-8, 692, 3.72.

STRUCK OUTS—Schilling, Philadelphia, 272; K Brown, San Diego, 238; Wood, Chicago, 233; Givone, Atlanta, 192; Reynolds, Houston, 190; Park, Los Angeles, 170; Dreifort, Los Angeles, 165.

SAVES—Hoffman, San Diego, 49; Beck, Chicago, 46; Shaw, Los Angeles, 43; Nen, San Francisco, 38; J Franco, New York, 36; Urbina, Montreal, 31;

HELEN KAYE

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

A black and white portrait of a man with dark hair, wearing a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a dark tie. He is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The background is a light, textured gray.

(Ten Boxes)

DIO

6:30 ABC World News
7:00 Sunrise
7:30 11 AM News
12:30 Sky World News
13:30 On The Line
17:30 Sky World News
18:00 Live at Five
20:00 Spinline
21:30 Business Report
22:30 Sky World News
23:00 Prime Time
23:15 SBS Evening News
2:30 ABC World News

■ CHANNEL 5

6:30 Bodies in Motion
15:30 Tennis
16:00 Bodies in Motion
18:30 FILA Basketball
17:00 Spanish League Soccer
18:30 Sports News
20:00 German League Soccer
22:00 Live English Soccer
23:45 Tennis
00:15 German League Soccer

■ EUROSPORT (15/15)

8:30 Olympic Games
9:00 Tradition
10:00 Live at Five
11:00 Xten Sports
12:00 Soccer
13:30 All Sports
14:00 Live Tour of Spain
17:00 Xten Sports
18:30 4-Wheel Drive
19:00 Xten Sports
20:00 Strongest Man

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Litterer (6)	1 Lasso (6)
2 Staff of life (5)	2 Intrigue (7)
3 Lasso (5)	3 Pachyderm (8)
4 Annual (7)	4 Sunbathe (4)
5 Dismounts (7)	5 Banishment (5)
6 Kind (4)	6 Swindle (6)
7 Butter (3)	7 Salad leaf (5)
8 Pulse (4)	13 Breathing tube (8)
9 Rot (4)	16 Mattress cover- ing (7)
10 Leverage (3)	17 Tap (6)
11 Crown of head (4)	19 Enquired (5)
12 Empty (7)	20 Czech capital (6)
13 Seal (7)	22 Polynesian kingdom (5)
14 Frost (5)	24 Freshwater fish (4)
15 Jacobeth's title (5)	
16 Lean (6)	

daily chance drawing

A	Q	Q	A
9	10	7	10
9	J	8	8

Inside

Broncos' Davis rips Cowboys

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100 worried by McGwire's 'substance' use

Page 17

Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Camacho: I'll be Spanish coach, but with strings attached

MADRID (AP) — Jose Antonio Camacho said yesterday he has agreed to become Spain's national soccer coach on condition that federation officials let him choose his own staff.

"I would love to coach the Spanish national soccer team, but those who know me know that I could not work without total freedom," the former Espanyol coach and Real Madrid star player told a radio station.

The Spanish Football Federation said it would give him an answer in 24 hours.

It is seeking a replacement for Javier Clemente, who resigned last week to take the blame for a disappointing World Cup and a recent 3-2 loss to lowly Cyprus in European Championship qualifier.

The federation offered the job to Luis Aragones over the weekend but he made the same demands Camacho is making now and the federation said no.

Camacho resigned in July as coach of Real Madrid in a contractual dispute, less than three weeks after taking on the job.

Perfect Rafter retains US Open title

NEW YORK (AP) — The name on the outside says Arthur Ashe Stadium. It really belongs to Patrick Rafter.

Since the stadium opened a year ago, Rafter hasn't lost at the National Tennis Center, winning 14 consecutive matches and two US Open titles.

The second came at the expense of fellow Australian Mark Philippoussis on Sunday.

"Now I feel year last wasn't such a fluke," Rafter said after his 6-3, 3-6, 6-2, 6-0 victory in two hours, 6 minutes.

"Now I can look at people and think I have done it again."

He did it with almost perfect serve-and-volley tennis, making only five unforced errors and finishing with a flourish, capturing the final 10 games.

While Rafter was winning the second Grand Slam singles title of his career, it was the first time Philippoussis had reached the final of any of the game's four majors.

"This is just the start for everything," Philippoussis said, "just the start for me."

Lindsay Davenport, also making her first title match appearance, won the women's singles on Saturday, beating defending champion Martina Hingis 6-3, 7-5.

"The sight at the end of the tunnel of winning the Grand Slam was what kept me going," said Davenport, the first American-born woman to win the US Open since Chris Evert in 1982.

Rafter, who had to rally from a two-set deficit in the first round, pocketed \$700,000 and moved up to No. 2 in the world rankings — just behind Sampras, whom he defeated Saturday in the semifinals.

Davenport also won \$700,000 — the US Open is the only Grand Slam tournament that pays equal prize money — and moved to No. 2 in the world rankings behind Hingis.



NEAR-PERFECTION — Pat Rafter hardly missed a shot in the US Open final against countryman Mark Philippoussis. (Reuters)

Both Rafter and Davenport dominated the hardcourt circuit this summer, each winning three tournaments before coming to Flushing Meadows.

With Rafter and Philippoussis almost matching point for point through the first 2 1/2 sets, Rafter began his winning run in the fifth game of the third set after blowing a

40-0 lead. When Philippoussis pulled to deuce, Rafter slammed his racket to the ground in disgust. On the next point, Philippoussis found an open-

ing down the line, but instead slammed a forehand into the net. When Philippoussis netted a backhand service return on the next point, Rafter had held.

The missed opportunity might have been on Philippoussis' mind in the next game when he dropped serve for only the second time in the match.

It was a long game — 10 points — as Rafter hit a backhand lob, a shot that had worked for him the entire day. This time, Philippoussis backpedaled and hit a smash.

Rafter, though, was able to get it back, and Philippoussis responded with a forehand crosscourt. Again Rafter got there.

With both at the net, they traded forehand volleys before Philippoussis netted the ball.

That gave Rafter the ad, and he closed out the break when Philippoussis failed to get a half-volley over the net.

Philippoussis didn't win another game.

"After the 2-all game, I think I just showed a bit of emotion there, I was a bit frustrated," Rafter said. "I just loosened up, and from there I just gained more and more confidence."

One of the biggest servers in tennis, Philippoussis powered his way to the final. But the power was no match for the speed of Rafter, who has won all three of their career matches. The second set was the first Rafter ever lost in their rivalry.

"You've got to hand it to Pat, five unforced errors for the match," Philippoussis said. "At the moment, he's playing like the best player in the world."

Touted as one of America's finest young players after winning the US Open junior championship in 1992, Davenport had never before reached a Grand Slam tournament singles final, although she did capture the gold medal at the Atlanta Olympics.

Queen drummer comes to aid of Manchester United fans

MANCHESTER (AP) — A British rock legend is supporting opposition from Manchester United fans to a \$623 million takeover of Britain's biggest club by Rupert Murdoch's satellite television company BSkyB.

Roger Taylor, drummer in the rock band Queen, Monday

pledged £10,000 pounds to the Independent Manchester United Supporters Association to stop the record buyout.

The 49-year-old musician also plans to release a special edition of his solo single to include an additional track named "Dear Mr. Murdoch," his publicist said.

Betar-Rangers showdown tonight

By ORI LEWIS
and OFER ROMEN-ABELS

Betar Jerusalem will play the biggest home match in their history today when they take on Glasgow Rangers in the UEFA Cup at Teddy Stadium (kickoff 20:00).

The showdown, in front of an expected record sellout crowd of some 20,000 promises much in terms of excitement and goals, as one of Europe's richest and most venerable clubs take on the National League champions.

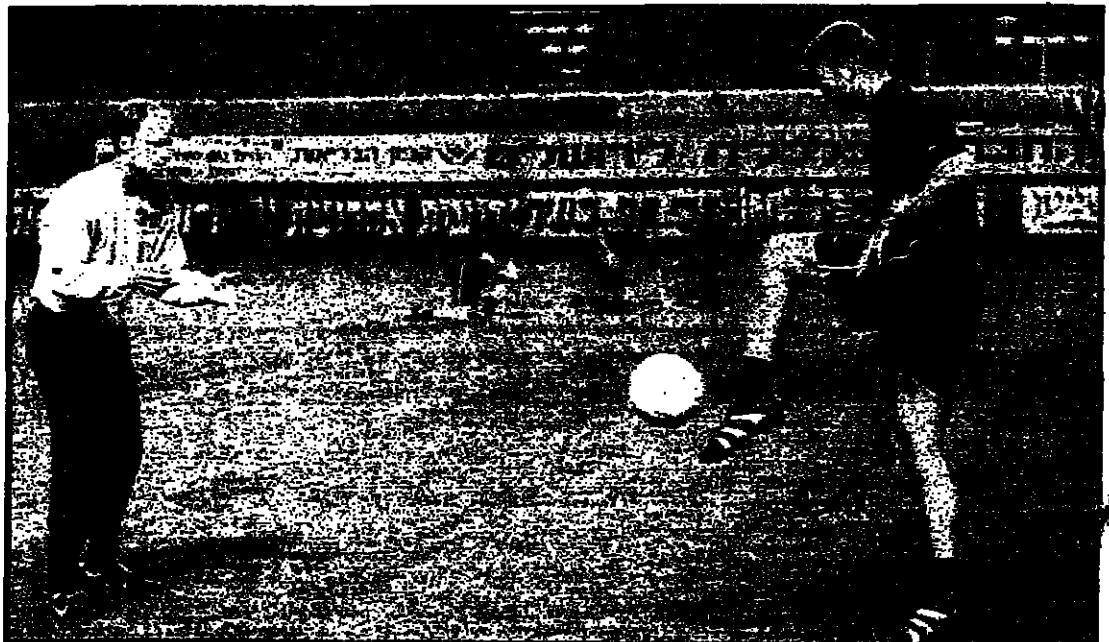
Rangers' experience in European competition is long and eventful, but their away record — just like the Scottish national team's — is not particularly impressive, and all their hard work at home has often come to naught because of an inability to score goals in their away ties.

That, however, should not make Betar feel complacent. The Scots are a tough, dynamic, attacking side, and in players like Andrei Kanchelskis they boast one of the fastest strikers in Europe.

The boys in blue will, however, be missing several key players. Defenders Arthur Numan is injured and Colin Hendry missed the registration deadline for European action.

Gabriel Amato did not make the trip due to a knee injury.

Betar also have their problems: Midfielder Stefan Salloi, one of the keys to the side's success over the past two seasons will probably be absent after a row with coach Dror Kashtan over professional matters



GETTING READY — Rangers coach Tommy Moller Nielsen (left) trains German midfielder Jorge Albert at Teddy Stadium last night. (Bram Hendler)

caused the latter to bar his Hungarian midfielder from participating in yesterday's training session.

The two fell out on Sunday when Salloi stormed out of team training following an argument over his playing position — he wants to be placed further up front.

Betar have an impressive home record to defend: they have not lost at Teddy Stadium for 18 months, something of which Rangers' Dutch manager Dick Advocaat is well aware.

"We can win, but it will not be at all easy. It is very important for us to score an away goal as that could make the difference," Advocaat said.

Referring to Betar's form, the Dutchman said: "I saw Betar's home win over Benfica and they look a better side than PAOK Salonika (whom Rangers beat in the last round of the competition). Our scout also saw them beat Maccabi Haifa and the look to be in good form."

With the game kicking off at night, the warm weather should not be a factor, although Advocaat said he was not worried in case it is hot.

"I'm not worried about the weather, all I care about is scoring goals in the away leg," he reiterated.

Some 500 Glasgow fans have made the trip to Jerusalem, but they will doubtless be drowned out by the Betar supporters in yellow and blue, assuming that the Betaris do not concede goals early on in the match.

'If I weren't a player, I'd be fighting, too'

CHICAGO (AP) — Sammy Sosa's going to have to rely on his memory for his historic day, because most of the mementos went quickly.

His jersey? Off to the Hall of Fame. His bat? Going right next to Roger Maris and Mark McGwire's in the hall. And the balls he hit for Nos. 61 and 62? Forget it. The fans who got them are apparently looking for cold, hard cash.

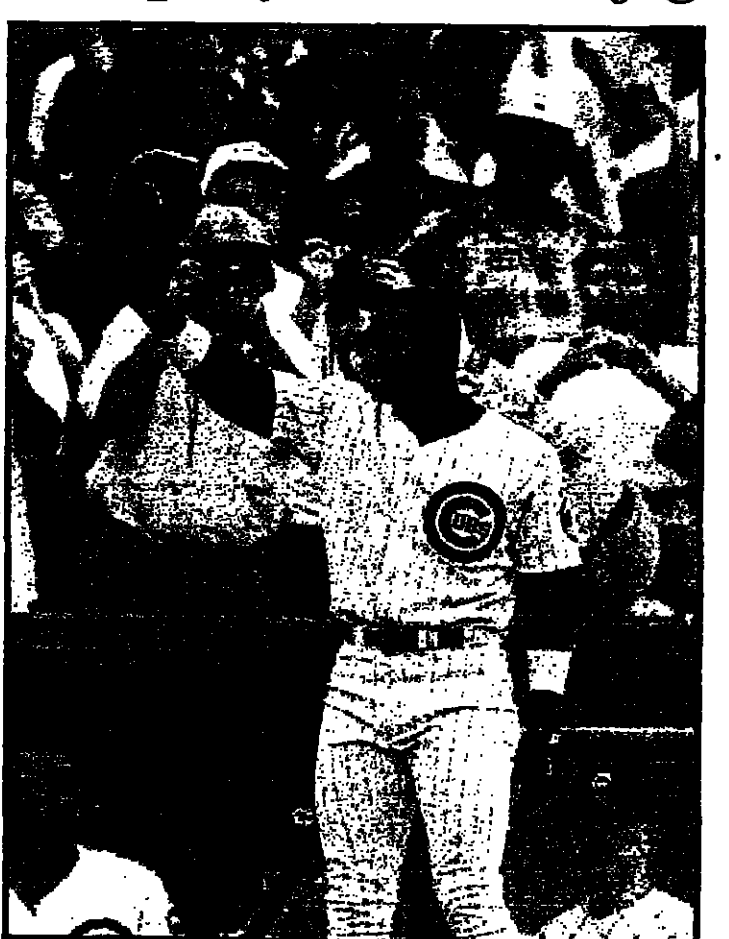
"How do you know what it's worth?" said John Witt, who caught No. 61 and was reportedly offered a five-figure sum for it.

The St. Louis fan and groundskeeper who wound up with McGwire's 61st and 62nd home run balls immediately gave them back. No one contacted the Chicago Cubs to offer Sosa back the balls, team spokesman Chuck Wasserstrom said.

Unlike when McGwire neared Maris' single-season mark of 61 homers, the Cubs said major league baseball didn't specially mark balls for Sosa.

When No. 62 sailed over the left-field fence at Wrigley Field, it set off a mad scramble among the hundreds of fans crowding Waveland Avenue.

"I caught the ball and 50 people landed on top of me. One guy bit my left hand and wrestled the ball away," said Moe Mullins, whose hand was bleeding. "People tried to help me catch the guy, but the cops



CURTAIN CALL — Cubs' Sammy Sosa waves to the Wrigley Field faithful after hitting home run No. 62 Sunday. (Reuters)

took him off in a squad car." The man, whose name was not immediately available, was taken to a police station near Wrigley Field, said Chicago police Sgt. Mary O'Toole. "We got him out of there because we thought he was going to get his behind kicked," she said. "[It was] for his own safety."

"The story is changing now every minute. It's a big mess. The guy who has it is not the guy who started out with it," Mullins later filed a police report about the incident.

When Sosa heard fans were fighting to get the ball, he chuckled. "If I weren't a player, I'd be fighting, too, for that ball," he said.

Sosa didn't say whether he wanted the balls back, but he has a history of letting fans keep them. When the woman tracked down No. 56, which tied Hack Wilson's NL and club record, offered it to him, he autographed it and returned it.

Sosa looked a little reluctant as he turned over his bat to the two representatives from the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York. He gave them a long look and kissed the natural wood-colored bat before handing it over.

Sosa's bat and jersey were to go on display yesterday as part of "The March on Maris" exhibit. The bat, which he used for home runs No. 58-62, will be placed alongside the bat McGwire used for No. 62 and the bat Maris used to hit his 61st home run.

AIR CANADA

A late breakfast conference in Raleigh?
AIR CANADA will get you there on time.
Depart TLV 1:30 a.m. - Arrive Raleigh 10:20 a.m. the same day

THE WEATHER

http://www.accuweather.com

ISRAEL

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Haifa 33/24
Tel Aviv 34/24
Jerusalem 32/19
Dead Sea 43/28
Beersheba 35/20
Eilat 42/28

Israel: Sunny and hot today and tomorrow. Highs 32-36 coast and mountains, 37-44 east. Clear tonight. Lows 18-28.

EUROPE WEATHER TODAY

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

ISRAEL CITIES

City	Today High/Low	Wednesday High/Low	Thursday High/Low	Friday High/Low
Ariel	37/66	22/11	34/53	19/56
Beersheba	35/55	20/68	33/51	18/54
Dead Sea	43/109	25/79	41/106	27/79
Eilat	42/107	28/82	41/104	27/79
Haifa	33/24	24/75	31/58	22/71
Jerusalem	32/19	19/66	30/56	17/59
Katzen	38/100	18/64	35/57	16/51
Netanya	34/53	23/76	32/59	21/70
Tel Aviv	34/53	24/76	32/59	21/70
Thelma	39/102	22/71	35/55	22/71

Weather (W): sunny, partly cloudy, cloudy, showers, thunderstorms, rain, drizzle, fog, snow, hail.

INTERNATIONAL CITIES

City	Today High/Low	Wednesday High/Low	Thursday High/Low	Friday High/Low
Amsterdam	16/61	9/45	13/55	7/41
Beijing	28/82	14/57	29/84	17/52
Berlin	16/61	11/52	16/51	9/49
Brussels	14/57	8/45	14/57	8/49
Cairo	37/98	22/71	30/82	19/56
Chicago	24/75	15/58	24/75	14/57
Frankfurt	17/62	9/49	16/51	7/41
Hong Kong	32/89	27/80	32/89	27/80
Jerusalem	21/70	14/57	19/66	13/55
London	17/62	8/45	16/51	9/49
Los Angeles	28/82	7/41	16/51	17/62
Madrid	29/79	13/55	30/82	13/55
Mexico City	25/77	16/51	21/70	14/57
Montreal	23/73	13/55	18/64	7/41
Moscow	24/75	11/52	19/66	13/55
New York	31/68	22/71	27/80	17/62
Paris	12/59	9/45	14/57	8/49
Rango	23/73	13/55	24/75	14/57
Rio de Janeiro	21/70	12/52	25/77	16/51
Rome	30/86	7/41	17/62	8/49
Tokyo	23/73	14/57	28/84	24/75
Toronto	23/73	14/57	28/84	24/75
Vancouver	14/57	8/45	19/66	13/55
Washington	14/57	8/45	19/66	13/55
Zurich	13/55	10/50	17/62	8/49

NORTH AMERICA WEATHER TODAY

Albuquerque 31/44
Anchorage 17/4
Bakersfield 31/44
Baltimore 31/44
Boston 31/44
Buffalo 31/44
Calgary 21/11
Chicago 24/75
Cincinnati 31/44
Cleveland 31/44
Dallas 31/44
Denver 31/44
Detroit 31/44
Houston 31/44
Los Angeles 31/44
Miami 31/44
Memphis 31/44
Milwaukee 31/44
Minneapolis 31/44
New York City 31/44
Oklahoma City 31/44
Orlando 31/44
Philadelphia 31/44
Phoenix 31/44
Portland 31/44
San Francisco 31/44
Seattle 31/44
Salt Lake City 31/44
St. Louis 31/44
Tampa 31/44
Vancouver 31/44
Washington 31/44
Wichita 31/44

Jerusalem

Iran. Talk tough

Clinton seek g jury v

Local strike

Viagra goes on sale today

See VIAGRA, Page 2